

-Brittan likely to endorse changes in firearms training for the police

By Stewart Tindler, Crime Reporter

Changes in the training and equipment of police officers are likely to be endorsed by Mr Leon Brittan, Home Secretary, with the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, Sir Kenneth Newman, in the wake of the recent shooting in the London Underground.

The meeting was announced yesterday by Mr Brittan in a statement after the Police Complaints Board announced that the three officers involved in the shooting would not face disciplinary charges.

Mr Brittan is likely to meet Sir Kenneth after Christmas. The Home Secretary is expected to endorse several suggestions for improving firearms training for the Metropolitan Police, including a Scotland Yard officer.

The changes, described by Sir Kenneth's Deputy, Assistant Commissioner, last week would increase initial training from three to five weeks, lengthen additional later training, assess

reactions to stress and give better tactical instruction.

Future operations involving police with firearms in London will always have a senior firearms specialist on hand to give advice.

Nearly 4,700 officers are qualified to carry guns in London but that is likely to be reduced to give fewer men better training.

Mr Brittan's statement reviewed changes in the rules on the use of guns and noted that a report from Sir Kenneth had shown "shortcomings in the selection and training of officers for firearms duties".

The Home Secretary said that further changes would take into account the selection of men who could withstand stress. There would be continual assessment after training.

The Police Complaints Board's statement on Thursday said: "during the course of the investigation a number of procedural deficiencies were discovered in the records of the

issue of firearms but there is no suggestion that guns used in this operation [the police operation in which Mr Waldorf was shot in mistake for a wanted man] were issued without proper authority or to officers who were not regarded as competent to use them.

"The board are satisfied that these deficiencies have no bearing on the manner in which the guns were used".

Yesterday, Deputy Assistant Commissioner James Sewell, who led the investigation into the shooting, said that the board was told that the police inquiry discovered a minor deficiency in gun regulations at Paddington Green police station.

The guns were issued properly and their use was noted in a register but a number of the entries were not counter-signed as required by regulations. Two or three entries were involved, but they did not include the men involved in the Waldorf shooting.

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Shipyards pin hope for peace on Acas

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

Unions and management in the shipbuilding industry are pinning their hopes on the Conciliation and Arbitration Service to produce a fresh initiative to prevent the national shipyard strike called for January 6.

The service's officials are maintaining close contact with both parties in the hope that here could be agreed grounds for reopening negotiations on the management's £7 a week pay offer which is tied to a 10-week productivity plan.

Union leaders say that British shipbuilders are asking for too much too soon, but the management has emphasized that the productivity proposals amount to a survival plan.

Acas officials have been in contact with union officials and management, but they are delaying a public approach until there appears to be a reasonable hope of bringing together the parties for talks to postpone the strike.

British Shipbuilders has refused to reopen negotiations with the unions until the strike threat is withdrawn. It has said that even if the strike was

postponed talks could involve only explanation of the productivity plan and not discussion of the changes that the unions are demanding.

The 10-point "blueprint for survival" involves changes in long-established working practices and the management has said that a national strike could lead to large-scale redundancies.

The unions have argued that although changes in working practices are inevitable they have to be introduced through negotiation.

Ministers have made clear that they are not prepared to intervene in the dispute which is also threatening the future of the Scott Lithgow yard in the lower Clyde which employs nearly 4,300 workers.

Additional pressure has been put on the yard by the cancellation of an £86m oil rig order by Britoil.

Mr Graham Day, chairman of British Shipbuilders, is on holiday in Canada for the next two weeks and union leaders believe there can be no resolution to the dispute until he returns.

Airline to fight hive-off

By Michael Bailey, Transport Editor

Lord King British Airways chairman, yesterday reaffirmed his determination to fight any attempt to split the airline. And the airline's trade unions said they were "outraged" at British Caledonian's proposal to hive off £200m of British Airways routes and assets.

In a Christmas message to staff Lord King says 1983 has been a success and 1984 will be even better. He adds: "Now that we are successful you will no doubt have noticed the opportunity attempts by others to demand a part of British Airways for themselves."

"My answer to that is: British Airways is staying as it is united and complete."

In the same issue of *British Airways News* Mr Colin Varnell, chairman of the British Airways trade union council, writes that "people in British Airways may rightly feel concerned, if not outraged, at the proposals from British Caledonian that a large chunk of our routes and assets should be taken away, particularly after all the sacrifices of the past few years."

The British Airways trade unions would be making a submission to the Civil Aviation Authority that the future careers of Airways into profit should be taken into account in any review of aviation policies. "We will be paying close attention to the need to keep the airline as a single entity, with no selling off of separate parts."

British Airways is expecting a busy Christmas, with record traffic to holiday sun and ski spots.

The state airline is putting on extra flights to Geneva, Zurich, Montreal, Mauritius, Barbados, and Saudi Arabia. Additional planes will be provided on domestic flights too, especially between London and Scotland.

Holidaymakers heading to the sun, mainly Spain and Portugal, are expected to increase by 26 per cent on last year. Those taking ski holidays will be 10 per cent up, with Austria the most popular destination.

Airmail traffic by British Airways flights is 10 per cent up on last year. Peak routes for Christmas cards are to the United States, South Africa, Hongkong, Japan and Europe.

Film chain monopoly challenged

By David Hawton, Arts Correspondent

The Government is to break some of the monopolies of film exhibitors and distributors for a trial period on the recommendation of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

The principal effect will be to bar the practice of restricting popular films to big cinema chains for an initial period, which has been criticized by independents in the cinema business.

Mr Alex Fletcher, Under Secretary of State at the Department of Trade and Industry with responsibility for corporate and consumer affairs, said that he would ask the Director-General of Fair Trading to give the scheme a six-month trial in selected places before making recommendations for implementing it nationally.

The system of "barrier" has been vigorously defended by the main exhibitors and distributors. But the monopolies commission concluded that it was against the public interest and caused delays in the release of popular films.

The report recommended that no popular film could be exhibited for more than four weeks in any cinema unless it had been made available to competing theatres. The four-week limit will be introduced in the experiment approved by the Department of Trade and Industry.

Seven of the leading box office successes in Britain last year when the project of the domestic cinema industry, according to figures issued by the trade magazine *Screen International*. They were *Return of the Jedi* (placed second), *Gandhi* (fourth), *Superman III* (sixth), *Monty Python's The Meaning of Life* (tenth), *The Dark Crystal* (twelfth), and *Local Hero* (sixteenth).

Britain's most popular film was *E.T.*, which took a record of more than £16m at the box office.

Benefit plan for asbestos victims

By David Nicholson-Lord

People suffering from lung cancer because of exposure to asbestos will be entitled to state disability benefit under the terms of an unpublished report now being considered by ministers at the Department of Health and Social Security.

The report by the Industrial Injuries Advisory Council is a revised version of one published in November last year and partly rejected by the Government. Asbestos safety campaigners believe it could cause a considerable change in the way benefit rules are interpreted, leading to hundreds more cases being compensated.

But Mrs Ann de Peyer, the council's secretary, said yesterday: "I do not think we are talking about large numbers being affected by the changes."

The Society for the Prevention of Asbestos-related Industrial Diseases (SPAD), says, however, the proposals will help to end the de facto "screening" procedures by which, for example, smokers who have lung cancer and have worked with asbestos are advised by doctors and solicitors not to proceed with a claim.

Mrs Nancy Tait, SPAD secretary, said that in 1981 two thirds of the 417 people applying for industrial disability benefit for asbestosis were refused. Possibly 80 per cent of those would benefit from the changes, she said.

The society cites the case of Mrs Georgina Stanford, an asbestos victim featured in last year's television documentary *Alone - A Fight for Life*. Mrs Stanford, who died of lung cancer and also suffered from asbestosis, received no compensation although her family was paid £4,000 after her death.

The report's chief recommendation is thought to be the recognition of lung cancer as a "prescribed" disease under industrial injuries law when accompanied by asbestosis or by thickening of the pleura, or lung linings.

Factory bonus

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

A plan to build a flyover the length of Oxford Street in an attempt to restore its place as Britain's leading shopping street has encountered opposition from some of the largest shops, including Selfridges and John Lewis.

There is little doubt, particularly after the congestion caused by thousands of Christmas shoppers, that something is needed to improve the street's appearance and accessibility for pedestrians. The plan would enable people to walk freely among the shops untroubled by the heavy traffic.

The plan, devised by the architects, Avery Associates, has been welcomed by the Oxford Street Association and Westminster Council, whose highways and planning committee wants to see it developed in greater detail.

After Mr Bryan Avery's recent presentation of the scheme, however, some companies have written to the association to express their doubts about its viability.

Mr Harry Shepherd, the association's chairman, said yesterday there was no consensus among its members for the scheme. "Some are concerned because it is such an unusual scheme, and are worried at the repercussions if things do not work out satisfactorily," he said.

Their main concerns include the lack of a management scheme to make sure that the new pedestrianized streets would be kept in good condition.

Most members of the association favour pedestrianization, and the matter will be discussed fully at its next meeting in March.

"My own view is that it is such an imaginative scheme that we ought to look at it seriously," Mr Shepherd said.

Without financial support, Mr Avery can make little progress. He wants to have detailed models of the construction made, and they would cost £40,000 to £50,000.

So far no one has offered the money, although Mr Avery says two organizations have indicated they might be prepared to contribute to the cost.

Mr Avery said: "We need to conduct a detailed feasibility



The homeless

Sheltering from despair

Kathleen Joyce, aged 20 (left), and Rachel Jarrett, aged 17, are two of London's many thousands of homeless young people who were facing a long Christmas week yesterday.

They are lucky enough, however, to have found places in a 20-bed hostel in Rufford Street, Islington, north London, run by Alone in London, a charity specializing in helping people aged 16 to 25, many of whom have come to the capital to find the streets paved with despair.

Alone in London, one of ten similar agencies in Greater London, counsels about

1,200 young people a year. Its 10-month-old hostel, rented from a housing trust, is meant to supply emergency accommodation as well as training to enable its charges to find work and housing. Volunteer tutors offer courses in skills from cooking to photography and dance.

Crisis at Christmas, which is among the sponsors of Alone in London, will provide a home for more than 1,000 people in a disused warehouse in Vauxhall. The organizers estimate they will serve more than 20,000 meals between now and Tuesday.

(Photograph: Tony Weaver).

Submarines Sinking a few

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

Several hundred Britons will be passing their Christmas many fathoms deep.

They are the crews of the few submarines on patrol in waters ranging from the South Atlantic around the Falkland Islands to the wintry North Atlantic and the Barents Sea.

There will be at least one submarine away on patrol over the holiday from each of the three main groups in the British submarine fleet: the nuclear-powered Polaris vessels with a crew of about 147, the nuclear-powered Fleet submarines, which do not carry Polaris, and the diesel-powered Patrol submarines with a crew of 65.

All do extended patrols, which for the nuclear-powered boats may last between two and four months. For the most part the submarines remain unseen throughout their patrols, although off the Falklands, where there is usually one nuclear-powered boat on patrol, and occasional rendezvous with a surface naval vessel will be arranged.

In any case, submariners have their own traditions for celebrating Christmas. They will have with them the necessary ingredients for a traditional Christmas meal.

Full watch-keeping will be maintained, with between a third and half of the crew on duty at all times, but it is likely that the starting and finishing times of watches will be adjusted, so that men do not have to leap up straight from a Christmas meal to go on duty.

Among the characteristic elements of a submarine Christmas are the familygram, the "sods" opera and "rounds" performed by a junior rating.

Normally every crew is entitled to receive one familygram a week, transmitted from shore, but at Christmas an extra familygram is allowed, with special efforts being made to ensure that it is transmitted on or as close as possible to the day itself.

Greenham women Cheering up a damp camp

Peace and good will to all women has been the message at the Greenham Common camp in Berkshire, where more than 100 women and children will be celebrating a cold, damp and dedicated Christmas.

Unlike previous Christmases when only a few peace protesters have held the fort at Greenham, 1983 will be remembered as the festive occasion at which supporters rallied round to show their solidarity for the enduring campaign against cruise missiles.

The women have been overwhelmed by Christmas goods arriving by the sackful. As they sat around their camp fire yesterday, the protesters pointed to huge tents housing food and clothing.

Eva Webb, aged 25, said: "We've turned one tent into a kitchen, where cakes, fresh vegetables, mince pies, tinned food and sweets are piled right up to the top."

"We have far too much food and it is in danger of going bad. We have decided to match the police and have made up parcels of Christmas goodies which peace women will deliver to old people's homes in Newbury."

Clothing has also been given by hundreds of well-wishers. Eva Webb added: "There is so much clothing at the camp that we have filled 200 plastic bin-liners full of clothes and sent them to Oxford."

Money has also flooded in from all over the world ready for the fines when more than 400 protesters go to court early next year.

The camp has assumed a festive look with supporters' chains festooning the barbed and chain-linked wire around the base.

A woman called Briony, who arrived yesterday for Christmas, said: "There are quiet a few children here and I am sure several women will be dressing up as Santa Claus for the big day."

The "sods" opera is the nearest thing to a concert party that the crew can put on, with as much dressing-up as circumstances permit, and a heavy emphasis on in-house jokes and blue humour.

To carry out his Christmas "rounds", a tour of inspection of the vessel, a junior rating, usually the youngest person aboard, will don the Commander's uniform and find as much fault, and have as much fun at the expense of his superiors, as his ingenuity and nerve will permit.

Thatcher welcomes Dublin offer to tackle terrorism

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

There was new evidence yesterday of fellow feeling between the British and Irish governments in the face of their common enemy, the IRA. Mrs Margaret Thatcher responded warmly to an article in *The Times* by the Irish Prime Minister, Dr Garret FitzGerald.

Dr FitzGerald observed that the sense among Irish people of shared grief and outrage with the British people was stronger than at any time he could recall. He asked the politicians and public in Britain to join in a commitment to "exclude the gunmen from a say in our future".

He promised that no refuge would be given in the Irish Republic "to any who commit crimes of violence in these islands".

Mrs Thatcher, in a statement as she left Belfast to return to London yesterday, said she warmly welcomed and accepted Dr FitzGerald's "invitation to step up even further co-operation in the battle against terrorism".

But the Prime Minister made no explicit response to Dr FitzGerald's main argument, which was that successful joint action against terrorism required joint political structures. He implied that, by working to find such structures through discussions in the new Ireland Forum, political parties in the republic were doing more than British politicians to defeat the IRA by undermining their support.

"No one should doubt the will of Irish democratic politicians," he wrote, "to tackle the security problems of this island." The gunmen has been sustained at times "by an over emphasis on security policy at the expense of politics."

"The only convincing way that governments and politicians can now demonstrate their resolutions to stand against terrorism is to act urgently and resolutely together on the political front."

Dr FitzGerald has been working on Mrs Thatcher, since his visit to Chequers last month, to be ready to respond to any ideas for political change which the forum may suggest in its report, expected in March.

Irish ministers believe that Mrs Thatcher and her colleagues may be ready to entertain new ideas for attracting republican voters away from Sinn Féin and its violent allies. They are not sure that Westminster Conservative MPs in general are as open minded or as persuaded of the need for urgent action.

Dr FitzGerald said on radio yesterday his government will not rule out imprisonment without trial as an ultimate weapon against terrorists.

"Our Government and any other government here would always be prepared to use it if necessary," he added in an interview on RTE, the republic's state-backed radio station.

But he did not consider the time had yet arrived for the introduction of internment.

According to government sources the Cabinet is to discuss internment at its first meeting in the new year on January 3, but ministers are expected to agree with Dr FitzGerald that it would be counterproductive to introduce it at this stage.

While he was accompanying Mrs Thatcher on her visit to Belfast, Mr James Prior, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said yesterday: "There is a very good cooperation already, but there is always room for improvement and we could make it even closer. Early in the new year, the British Government and the republic's Government will be talking about improvements, that means meeting various members of the administration in the south," he said.

There were no plans, at present, for Mrs Thatcher to take part in such discussions, and Mr Prior declined to detain what new measures he might be pressing for.

Guardian mole explains

By Our Political Staff

The young civil servant dismissed on Monday for leaking a confidential paper said yesterday his action was taken in the public interest.

The paper, used for reports last month in *Time* and *the Guardian*, showed that private discussions over the possible shape of employment legislation were held between Lord Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, and Mr Michael Quinlan, Permanent Under-Secretary at the Department of Employment.

An administrative trainee in the department in his early twenties was first suspended and then dismissed for the publication of what his employers described as a stolen copy of Mr Quinlan's private note of the meeting.

The "mole" said yesterday that he considered the meeting between Lord Donaldson and Mr Quinlan was a breach of the constitutional principle that the judiciary and executive should be separated as far as possible.

It also exhibited the dangers of increasing judicial involvement in industrial relations and disputes.

He said he also knew what his department's reaction would be and thought it would illustrate the nature of official secrecy in Britain.

The mole, whose name has not been disclosed, was interviewed on BBC Radio's *World at One* on the understanding he remained anonymous.

He said he had known the source of the leak would be discovered and had resigned on November 30, the day of publication.

He thought it entirely legitimate for the Government to obtain technical advice from the judiciary on framing statutes, but not to get political advice.

Backing for 'bad law' rebellion

By Our Labour Editor

A top-level official of the Transport and General Workers' Union yesterday supported "rebellion against bad law" and predicted "mounting anger against the Government's labour law reforms."

Mr Larry Smith, TGWU executive officer, condemned media criticism of 21 union leaders who backed an unlawful strike called by the National Graphical Association as "vicious even for the gutter editions of the tabloid media."

In a statement in the union's journal, he defended the "tenacity" of TUC general councilors, including himself, who endorsed a committee decision to support the NGA last week.

Mr Smith said the TUC general council members who voted to support Mr Len Murray's repudiation of the employment policy committee backing for the NGA were in variance with the 1982 Wembley conference decisions to oppose the 1980 and 1982 employment acts.

"Far from being unrepresentative, the positive 21 will lead the majority of trade unionists in the fight to protect their unions, the only real bulwark against politically-motivated tyranny," he said.

Correction

Lady Cox has not been confirmed as chairman of Brent District Health Authority, as stated on December 22. She asks us to say that she has had no discussions about taking over the part-time post.

Oxford Street flyover proposed

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

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Farm aid to be suspended

By Hugh Clayton

Payment of cash aid to hundreds of farmers will stop on New Year's Eve when the EEC rules governing them expires. Mr Michael Jopling, Minister of Agriculture, said yesterday. However, he was confident a renewal of payments would be allowed at the next meeting of the EEC council of farm ministers on January 10.

"In the meantime I shall have to suspend payment of grant and the approval of any new development plans and variations," he said.

Officials could not say how much money would be blocked or how many farmers would be affected.

But the British Government's contributions to some EEC aid schemes would stop when the Community share was blocked.

Mr Christopher Peeler, a National Farmers' Union official said the union was worried that grants for investment on dairy farms might never be renewed.

russell & bromley

77 Brompton Road, SW3.
64 Kings Road, SW3.
81 Knightsbridge, SW1.
24 New Bond Street, W1.
95 Jermyn Street, SW1 (Mens).
72 Queen Victoria Street, EC4 (Mens).
Brent Cross Shopping Centre, Hendon.

Bath	Bournemouth	Brighton	Bromley	Chichester	Croydon	Ealing	Eastbourne	East Grinstead	Edinburgh	Exeter
Golders Green	Guilford	Kingston	Leeds	Leytonstone	Manchester	Margate	Norwich	Oxford	Ryde	
Salford	Sevenoaks	Stratford	Southampton	Southport	Torquay	Tunbridge Wells	Watford	Winchester	Worcester	

SHOE SALE NOW ON
Sale starts 27th December

Driver kept in custody because court fears further offences

A banned driver, arrested for his second driving offence involving alcohol within a month, was ordered in custody for Christmas yesterday.

Mr Quentin Campbell, the Marlborough magistrate, called for probation reports on Dylan Somasundaram, aged 26, who admitted driving with twice the legal limit of alcohol in his system.

"The remand will be in custody because I fear further offences judging by your past history," Mr Campbell told him, as he ordered a three-week remand.

Somasundaram, of Ellison Road, Streatham, South London, was stopped in Old Oak Road, Shepherd's Bush, London. He was said to have been banned for a year on December 5 for a similar offence.

He also admitted driving without a licence, without insurance, and while disqualified.

● Nottinghamshire police disclosed yesterday that only 20 breath-tests so far in a Christmas campaign have been over

the limit. That compares with 31 positive readings out of the 975 breath tests for the same period last year.

The police said: "We are pleased with the results but do not want to be too complacent just yet because Christmas has not really begun."

In Derbyshire, the police gave breath tests to 642 motorists in the first seven days of their campaign. Only 33 of those tested were over the limit, and a spokesman said the results were encouraging and an improvement on last year.

Lessons for prisoner in Cell 4

By Michael Horsell

Staring at the mustard-coloured walls of Cell 4 under Grays police station for 48 hours has persuaded David Jones that drinking and driving makes a dangerous cocktail.

Jones, aged 21, was released at 8am yesterday, the latest victim of a purge in the Essex town where magistrates are teaching drink-driving offenders a short, sharp lesson.

After forgoing the pleasures of a prisoner's breakfast, he walked to the bus stop, anxiously hoping to confirm that his job was still intact and wondering what his mother, Mrs Joyce Jones, would say when he returned home.

He was the eleventh man in a week to receive a custodial sentence at Grays for driving with excess alcohol, and now faces an 18-month driving ban and the repayment of a £300 fine at £10 a week.

Jones, who earns £100 a week, was driving home to South Ockendon on November 6 when, under the influence of the three pints of beer and two shandies he had drunk at a Guy Fawkes Night party, he swerved to avoid a rabbit, mounted the pavement, skidded on gravel and ended up at 4.30am.

halfway through a garden hedge. When two patrolling police officers tested his breath shortly afterwards, they found 63 milligrammes of alcohol per 100 millilitres of breath - nearly double the permitted limit.

After being released, Jones told me: "It's very uncomfortable in there. I felt it was unjust to be put in a cell, though I have nothing against the police. It was the magistrate who put me there."

"I don't know whether this kind of treatment will deter anyone else from drinking and driving but it will deter me from doing it again."

Locked up for nine hours a day in his 10ft by 10ft cell, he felt like a criminal - sharing washbasins, associating with other prisoners in the echoing corridors, kicking a ball in the exercise yard and participating in the normal pastimes, such as cards and games, which prisoners play to pass the time.

His jailer, Police Sergeant Brian Snipe, said: "We probably treat drink-driving offenders a little better than criminals. They are not here to be leashed on, purely to be accommodated. There are three meals a day

which we pick up for them from Jan's Cafe near the bus station. But despite all this, they are chastened and ashamed of themselves for being banged up, worrying what their families and their neighbours think of them."

Mr Charles Noad, chairman of Grays magistrates, told me: "We felt drinking and driving had become virtually respectable, but it is an anti-social activity. It kills and injures."

"I am hoping that the stigma of a custodial sentence will act as a deterrent to others. This is partly the aim of what we are doing. Disqualification and fines were not having the required effect."

The rate of drink-driving offences here has increased by 67 per cent in the last year. Something had to be done."

Chalice returned

A seventeenth century silver chalice and paten stolen from St Botolph's Church in Aldgate, in May was returned by post this week to the rector, the Rev Malcolm Johnson.

Bank action fails and customers stay away

By David Cross

A strike by some bank counter clerks to protest at not receiving a half-day holiday caused only minor inconvenience yesterday.

Although the Banking, Insurance and Finance Union had said that most of its 80,000 members would obey the strike call, the employers said that about 6,000 workers left at noon, when the stoppage began.

A spokesman for the Banking Information Service, which represents the high street banks in England and Wales, said that only 110 of more than 11,000 branches had been closed. Many were small sub-branches.

Support for the strike was concentrated in Manchester, Liverpool, Leeds, Birmingham, east London, Newcastle and Tyne-side.

Barclays described the strike as an object failure. A random survey of 30 branches in the City, Holborn and the West End of London yesterday afternoon showed that they were all open, although in many there were more closed counters than normal. There were few customers, who were able anyway to use cash dispensing machines.

A small group of union protesters gathered outside the headquarters of the Federation of London Clearing Banks Employers near the Bank of England in Lombard Street, led by their general secretary, Mr Leif Mills. They were accompanied by a Santa Claus and a handful of Bob Cratchitts wearing "Save Our Christmas" stickers.

In a lively debate staged for the benefit of reporters, Mr Mills accused Mr Nicholas Cowx, director of the employers' federation, of impermanent Scrooge.

But Mr Cowx said that it was well worth keeping banks open for the benefit of customers, despite union opposition.



Fancy money: Staff at Barclays' Minorities branch, east London, dressed up for work yesterday. (Photograph: Suresh Karadia).

Food store bonanza

Christmas taste for the exotic

By Robin Young

Toys shops and department stores emptied yesterday as shoppers turned their attention to laying in supplies of food and drink. Britons, the retailers agreed, are deeply traditional about their festive fare, but for most this Christmas will be the most lavish.

Not only shall we be consuming our usual 10 million turkeys, but an increasing demand is reported for geese, beef, hams, duckling and game. There is still a consistent call for sprouts, but calabrese and mangetouts are selling better than ever as well.

The Christmas fruit bowl will never have been so cosmopolitan before with Israeli kumquats, Greek Lycopers, Brazilian paw-paws, Kenyan mangoes and New Zealand kiwis augmenting traditional supplies of chestnuts, clementines, dates and nuts. Yet none of those seems likely to dull the national appetite for Christmas pudding and mince pies.

A spokesman for Tesco said: "There is a move toward the luxury end of the market this year. There is a definite trend away from frozen turkey toward fresh and chilled. We are selling lots of smoked salmon and special cheeses like Brie with peppers and soft cheese with herbs, as well as the traditional Stiltons. People are also paying a considerable premium for fancy flavoured ice creams such as maple syrup and walnut and mango fruit cocktail. Tastes are simply broadening."

Sainsbury's reported heavy demand for its discounted frozen turkey at 48p a pound, and own label champagne at £5.95 a bottle, but it also claimed a rapid turnover in fresh geese, and a rapid increase in sales of table wines, especially the premium Vintage Selection range. Stiltons were selling "exceptionally well".

Marks & Spencer claimed to have invented the convenience Christmas lunch, with chestnut stuffed turkey breast ready for

the oven at £1.89 a pound. It also reported selling large numbers of fresh cream and frozen gateaux and Yule logs without denting the customary demand for Christmas cakes and puddings.

Waitrose reckoned Christmas for its customers would be "more traditional than ever" with large numbers of fresh pheasants, mallard, geese, pigeons and partridge sold "in addition to the usual turkey sales".

It also reported that smoked salmon, big hams, and loose handmade chocolates were popular.

Keymarkets said that its customers were buying "all the traditional lines in the traditional quantities. There is no sign that people are hard up".

● As weathermen warned of the remote chance of a white Christmas, betting men started dreaming of a wet Christmas. William Hill, the bookmakers, stand to pay out thousands of pounds if a drop of rain falls on the roof of the London Weather Centre on Christmas Day (Jenny Knight writes).

The Post Office said it expects to deliver about 1,000 million Christmas cards and parcels by Christmas eve, about 30 million more than last year. Part of the increase is attributed to the six million discount pre-Christmas stamp books.

Among those with the longest breaks are some British Steel workers, who will be off duty for 16 days, including an annual leave. Ford Employees, who started their break on Wednesday, and will not go back until January 3.

An AA spokesman urged drivers to check that they have enough petrol and necessary spares because most garages will be closed over the Christmas period.

National Express was providing extra coaches to cope with the Christmas rush but services will be suspended on Christmas Day and Boxing Day.

Clergyman frisked in gun alert



Police suspect: The Rev. Duncan Brereton with the window scraper that caused a police alert.

From Our Correspondent, York

Police tackled a suspected terrorist gunman in the shadows of a city street. They then frisked him out of his car, spreading him out on the pavement, and a figure crouching with a pistol in his hand.

A back-up squad of 12 officers waited near by during the operation only to discover that the man was a Methodist minister in casual clothes waiting for his wife. The "weapon" which a taxi driver thought the man had been pointing at a hotel was a plastic windscreen scraper.

But yesterday the Rev. Duncan Brereton was laughing about the incident which happened outside the Viking Hotel in North Street, York.

"They put my hand on the side of the car, then frisked me to see if I had a gun," Mr Brereton, of Bootham, York, said.

"I can understand their reaction and the police were most polite and courteous. They had to do what they did in the circumstances."

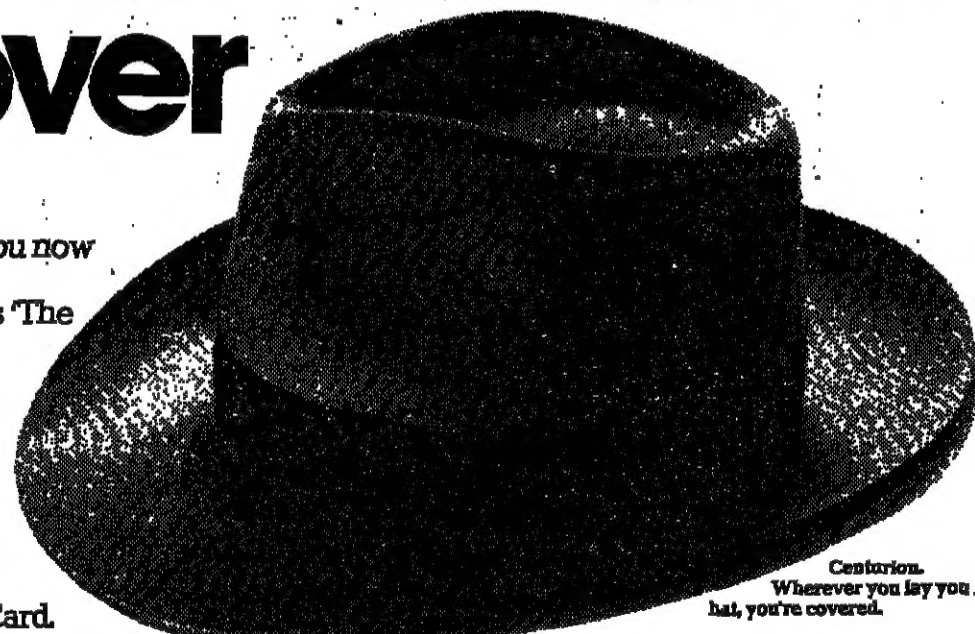
A police spokesman said yesterday he hoped the incident would not stop people from informing the police if they saw anything suspicious.

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Frozen oysters for 30p

By Craig Seton

Connoisseurs of the oyster are in for a surprise - the exclusive shellfish will soon be on sale in supermarkets.

Delicate bivalves will be coated in garlic butter, cheese sauce or breadcrumbs before being blast frozen.

Leading restaurants, where oysters sell for more than £5 for six, face the prospect of oysters and chips being a cheap snack.

For Cuan Sea Fisheries, of Strangford Lough, Co. Down, Northern Ireland, the largest grower of Pacific Oysters in the British Isles, expects to sell them at 30p each.

The company's managing director, Mr Jasper Parsons, with the blessing of the Shellfish Association, is trying to break the snobbish myth about oysters and to make them available to a much wider public through restaurants that cannot afford time or expense of opening oysters and supermarkets.

Mr Parsons said yesterday: "The logic is simply that we have been overvalued in this country by the traditional ways of eating oysters. Elsewhere in the world, particularly the United States and Australia, it is very often offered already cooked."

However, Mr Rodney Emmanuel, chairman of Wheeler's fish restaurants in London, said: "There is nothing worse than freezing oysters. I have tried them in Australia and they are flavourless."

"We do serve cooked oysters but they are fresh, live and opened in the restaurant."

BL restarts discount war with Maestro deal

By Clifford Webb, Motoring Correspondent

BL is trying to boost sales of the Maestro by offering substantial incentive payments to dealers for the first time since the car was launched 10 months ago. Dealers will receive up to £500 for each Maestro sold above the factory's target.

The move signals the renewal in the new year of the discount war, which has been such a feature of the British car market in the past two years.

It will also be seen in the industry as a direct challenge to Ford of Britain's chairman, Mr Sam Toy. He stopped dealer incentives nearly four months ago and called for a truce throughout the industry. Although it was ignored by his competitors he has refrained from reintroducing incentives.

However he has made it clear that he will "do everything necessary" to defend Ford's leadership and its 30 per cent market share.

The Austin Rover campaign will run from January 3 to April 9 and cover, in addition to Maestro, the Metro, Ambassador and Acclaim models. Factory payments to dealers start when they reach 50 per cent of their sales target for the quarter and increase in graded amounts according to the model.

For instance the Mini starts at £50 and the Maestro at £100, rising to £100 and £250 by 75 per cent of target and £100 and £500 for exceeding 100 per cent of target.

The Maestro MG and Vanden Plas models are excluded from incentives.

The latest Austin Rover campaign is designed to help the company to hold its 18 per cent market share until the Montego arrives in April. The new car will be a direct competitor for Ford's Sierra and Vauxhall's Cavalier. It is expected to win significant fleet sales from both.

Disabled trickster jailed for insurance swindle

A man born without most of his fingers and a couple of toes, who claimed thousands of pounds under insurance companies' travel policies after telling stories of gruesome accidents, was jailed for two years today.

Sun Alliance paid him £56,500 and General Accident £3,200 when he told them he lost his fingers, part of a foot and the sight of an eye in separate accidents. Mr Michael Hyam, for the prosecution, told

Acton Crown Court in west London.

When the Cornhill refused to pay him £25,000, he complained to the Lord Chancellor.

George Frederick Benjamin was caught when police arrested him for shoplifting and searched his £90,000 home.

Benjamin, aged 50, of Stevens Lane, Claygate, Surrey, was found guilty of two charges of obtaining cash by deception and one of attempting to obtain cash by deception from insurance companies.

Britain to pick parapsychology professor in the new year

By David Nicholson-Lord

Britain may soon have its first professor of parapsychology, probably the world's second. A university chair for the study of paranormal phenomena, from poltergeists and spoon bending to extra-sensory perception, is likely to be announced early in the new year.

The chair will carry with it an endowment of more than £300,000 from the estate of the writer, Arthur Koestler, together with cash from other sources which could bring the amount to £1m. One university has declared itself a candidate to the executors and two others are to put the proposal to their senates.

Dr John Beloff, one of Koestler's executors and a former president of the Society for Psychical Research, yesterday described the prospects of a chair being set up as "very high". He declined to name the universities, but the list is thought to include Edinburgh, University of Wales and the City University in London.

The executors have to decide by February as Koestler, who died in March, set a time limit of a year from his death to find a home for the professorship.

If, as now seems likely, the executors are able to choose from several contenders, it will represent a significant defeat for academic conservatism. Even Oxford and Cambridge, initially regarded as inflexible ground for such an experiment, have expressed far more interest than some critics predicted.

Oxford was willing to accept

the chair but rejected the designation of parapsychology, a point on which Koestler and his executors, who feared the money might be diverted to other research, were insistent.

At Cambridge, where a research team under Dr Carl Sargent was working until recently on telepathy experiments, discussions were held with university officials but the main result was the suggestion of a fellowship, possibly at Corpus Christi College. That did not satisfy the executors.

Dr Beloff said: "We never really expected that it would be an easy task to find a chair. We were surprised that discussions with Oxford and Cambridge got as far as they did. Koestler understood this perfectly well."

"It is simply that science has to be very cautious about recognizing the phenomena that provide the basis of parapsychology."

The fate of the Koestler bequest is being watched with concern by British parapsychologists eager to reestablish the lead Britain took in research into the supernatural after the foundation 101 years ago of the Society for Psychical Research. The only comparable chair is thought to be at Utrecht, in The Netherlands.

Koestler, who wrote extensively about the paranormal, committed suicide with his wife in London. They left behind them a note expressing "timid hopes for a depersonalized after-life beyond due confines of space, time and matter, and beyond the limits of our comprehension."

Another bomb-hoax caller is jailed

Gary Alan Coomber, aged 26, was jailed for three months by Harrow magistrates in London yesterday for making a bomb hoax call after the Harrods blast last Saturday. He is the second bomb caller to be jailed by the court.

Coomber, aged 26, a London Transport cleaner, of Binyon Crescent, Stanmore, admitted the offence and said he did not think anyone would take his call seriously.

Det Sgt Roger Hall said that after the Harrods bombing, Coomber, using an Irish accent, rang the emergency services, saying there was a bomb in a Debenhams store. Security forces were diverted from the Harrods incident. The police were on Coomber's doorstep within half an hour.

At Marylebone Magistrates' Court, two men accused of making bomb hoax calls were remanded in custody for a week yesterday.

Guy Gibson, aged 27, who had spent a week in custody for pretrial psychiatric reports, was charged with making a call to the Royal Navy Dockyards at Portsmouth, the day before the Harrods explosion, claiming there was a bomb at an unspecified London location.

Gibson, who is accused of making the hoax call from his home at the Lindsay House Hotel, Sussex Gardens, Paddington, told the magistrates that he was not applying for bail.

At Marlborough Street Court pretrial psychiatric reports were also ordered in the case of Amir Singh, aged 21, a sales assistant at Rutherford Tower, Lovell Road, Southall, charged with telephoning the Cumberland Hotel, Marble Arch, claiming there was a bomb at the Marks and Spencer store in Oxford Street on December 22.



Prebendary Dewi Morgan in his St Bride's study. (Photograph John Voos).

Fleet Street's counsellor says farewell

By Diane Guckett

When Prebendary Dewi Morgan retires as Rector of St Bride's in Fleet Street he will leave the door open behind him. "I think what I really wanted to do is say, 'Listen, St Bride's really is open every day of the year', he says of his 21-year ministry.

Sitting in his study, next to the crypts where the ruins of seven previous churches testify to St Bride's ancient history and its 55-year relationship with the printing industry, the white-bearded rector peppers his speech with his favourite anecdotes about the journalists and printers who have been drawn to St Bride's.

Severing ties with St Bride's will be difficult for a man whose life has become entwined with the church and its ministry in Fleet Street. In 1500 Wynkin de Worde moved Caxton's press alongside St Bride's churchyard

to start the church's long association with publishing and journalism.

Since Mr Morgan became rector in 1962, he has been a friend and counsellor to hundreds in the communications industry and has served as honorary chaplain to many Fleet Street institutions, including the Press Club, the Pensioners' Club, the Printers' Pensioners' Corporation and the Publicity Club of London.

"I never say no to anyone," he says of the journalists who come to him under the pretence of an interview when they really want to talk about themselves.

When he retires, Mr Morgan intends to return to the activity that drew him away from his parish in a Welsh mining village and opened up the world to him during his 12 years as press officer for the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel. He was

responsible for the society's publishing activities all over the world before he came to St Bride's.

"Writing has always been sheer relaxation for me," he says of his 13 books and hundreds of articles for nearly every English-speaking country. He has also produced several documentary films and appeared on television and radio programmes. For his retirement he has three books planned.

Although he will no longer reside beneath Christopher Wren's tallest steeple, Mr Morgan will continue to nurture the relationship between the printing industry and the church.

"Communication has precipitated a revolution in bringing the whole world together. The church's role is what it always has been and is even more so, to say that there's one God and Father of us all."

4.5% deal for hosiery workers

Fifty thousand members of the National Union of Hosiery and Knitwear Workers yesterday accepted a 4½ per cent pay rise from January 2, a shorter working week, and one day's extra holiday.

The settlement covers workers in Leicestershire, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, a further 6,000 in Lancashire and the North-east of England are also affected.

An extra day's holiday means workers are now entitled to 29½ days' paid annual leave, but the reduction in the working week from 40 to 39 hours will not become operative until December 21, 1984.

Teacher jailed for school sex assaults

A deputy headmaster was sentenced to six months' imprisonment yesterday after admitting indecently assaulting girls at his junior school.

Preston magistrates were told that Leslie Soulsby, aged 39, was "racked with sorrow, remorse and self-detestation". Soulsby, who has two children, is receiving psychiatric treatment.

Magistrates were told that Soulsby had planned to kill himself after he thought two boys had seen his offence against a girl aged 10.

Instead, he confessed to the police that he had committed indecent assaults over four years at Savick Junior School, Preston, Lancashire.

Later, the ten-year-old pupil

said that she had been assaulted several times, but had been too upset and frightened to complain. Mrs Dana Gledhill, for the prosecution, said.

Soulsby, of Sumpter Croft, Penwortham, Preston, who admitted an indecent assault on November 10, asked for eight other offences to be considered.

Mr Bill Featherstone, for the defence, said that Soulsby, a teacher since 1974, had been thought of very highly by colleagues. The first reaction to the case was repulsion, but the defendant did not advocate that sex involving children should become universally accepted.

Soulsby, who gave notice of appeal against sentence, was remanded in custody pending the hearing.

Rail terminus to be restored

By Arthur Osman

Nottingham's Low Level Railway Station which closed 40 years ago is being restored by a partnership of five agencies which hopes it can be a prototype for similar projects.

The building, of which the original booking hall and waiting rooms remain, represents the problems facing British Rail with its listed buildings, the prohibitive costs of restoration and the difficulties of inner-city areas.

The station was built in 1857 as the headquarters of the Great Northern Railway and was a

busy terminus until it was effectively bypassed by the Great Central Line into Victoria Station in 1900. The building was demoted to a suburban terminal until it closed in 1944.

British Rail, Nottingham City Council, the county council, the Department of Employment and the Manpower Services Commission have combined in the restoration.

Mr Kenneth Dixon, British Rail's community projects adviser, said: "It is a classic community partnership and one of the most comprehensive

community programme schemes we have undertaken. It is also the first time we have restored an historic listed building in a way which brings together several different organizations and such a wide range of skills."

Mr Edward Woolrich, of the agency restoring the shell of the building, said: "It provides a range of work for Nottingham's unemployed and the opportunity to learn some new conservation skills. It is good to feel we are helping to preserve a piece of the city's history."

Change in homes repair policy urged

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

Shelter, the national campaign organization for the homeless, has urged a review of the Government's strategy for repairing and improving homes. Its call comes after a government report which shows, Shelter says, that present policies are not halting the deterioration of the country's stock.

The report, Part II of the English House Condition Survey, published this week, said that many of those living in the worst housing are elderly, unemployed or have low incomes. Often they cannot afford to make repairs even with grants.

It said that between 1976 and 1981 only 10 per cent of those eligible took up a grant, with the take-up particularly low in rural areas. One quarter of households living in unsatisfactory housing had never heard of grants, and fewer than half of those considered applying for one.

The report said many people in substandard housing were often unaware of defects or underestimated the amount of repair work. Where they did recognize difficulties and were motivated to tackle them, most

of those living in the very worst housing could not afford to finance work without grants.

Much of the money spent went on items that enhanced otherwise satisfactory homes and less than half on maintaining the housing stock or bringing it up to standard.

The report acknowledged that some areas of bad housing were deteriorating rapidly. A Shelter spokesman said without policies and more money, an "increasing number of people will find themselves living in homes that are falling into disrepair. Many will be elderly and owner-occupiers."

The organization called on the Government to reconsider its decision to reduce the number of improvement grants and urged it to increase the money available to councils to tackle housing repairs.

Cyanide alert

Thirty people were taken to hospital yesterday after cyanide fumes leaked into the ITT Cannon factory in Basingstoke, Hampshire.

Lung-heart team ready to operate

By David Cross

Surgeons will stand by during Christmas and the new year at Harefield Hospital, west London, in case a suitable donor is found for Britain's second heart-lung transplant patient.

A spokesman at the hospital said yesterday that the team of specialists who performed the heart-lung transplant on Mr Lars Ljungberg, a Swedish journalist earlier this month, was ready to operate at a moment's notice.

Three patients, including a seriously ill woman, have been assessed as suitable candidates for the operation. Mr Ljungberg died on Tuesday.

Car crushed

A motorist escaped unhurt yesterday when his car was crushed by a train on a level crossing at Cookham, Berkshire. A police car responding to the accident and a van collided but both drivers were uninjured.

Ray of hope for pig trade

By John Young, Agricultural Correspondent

It has been a bad year for Britain's pig farmers and, short of a significant fall in feed grain prices, the outlook for 1984 is not much better.

However, a faint ray of light comes from Japan, which is among the world's largest consumers of pork. At present the Japanese import about 200,000 tonnes a year. Because of high feed prices, they are not thought likely to increase their domestic pig herd in the foreseeable future.

A recent trade mission to Japan, organized by the Meat and Livestock Commission, reported keen interest among

Move to cut waiting lists on NHS by two years

By Tim Jones

A two-year campaign to find a hospital place for an elderly woman in urgent need of a hip replacement operation has led to a scheme that could cut health service waiting lists by up to two years. Community health councils in Wales are to computerize waiting list information so doctors and patients can find out where waiting lists are shortest and apply for operations in other parts of the country.

At present this information is available only locally and usually within specific health authority areas.

The project, to be run by the Association of Welsh Community Health Councils, has been set up by Mr Emrys Roberts, Secretary of the South Wales Community Health Council. He said: "When I heard this lady complain about a two-year wait for her operation I knew there were other areas where the waiting lists were shorter."

"I spent two months writing to other health councils and found one with a new consultant and she was seen within two weeks."

Each community health council would approach its health authority to try to obtain waiting list information. "In some cases the GPs have no idea of the availability of the consultants in neighbouring areas. There could be a three-year waiting list for one area when a few miles away people could be seen much sooner."

Mr Gordon Harby, administrator for South Glamorgan Area Health Authority, said he would consider any scheme which reduced waiting lists. "If we were to adopt this type of scheme we would have to be paid directly otherwise the authority carrying out the extra work would be worse off and we are living from day to day financially."



Nanny's mother fined for fraud

The mother of Carole Compton, the Aberdeen nanny who was held in an Italian jail for 16 months on fire-raising charges, appeared in court yesterday - just one week after her daughter was freed by a court in Livorno.

Mrs Pamela Compton (above) was fined £75, at Aberdeen Sheriff Court after she admitted claiming £158 unemployment benefit while working.

Mrs Compton, aged 40, of Glenbervie Road, Aberdeen, who appeared under her maiden name, White, said that the fine was too high because she was a first offender. She was ordered to pay it at £3 a week.



When you're giving glad tidings, spare a thought for the operator.

Although most of our operators will be spending Christmas with their families this year, some operators will be working over the period, providing a limited service. Naturally, all emergency calls will be handled, as will some calls which cannot normally be dialled direct.

INLAND
Operator Service Restrictions. Restrictions apply to inland operator calls in England, Northern Ireland and Wales on Christmas Day - (midnight Christmas Eve to midnight Christmas Day) and inland operator calls in Scotland on New Year's Day - (midnight New Year's Eve to midnight New Year's Day).

Extended Cheap Rate Periods. Inland Cheap Rate will apply from 6 pm on 23rd December until 8 am on 3rd January in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

In Scotland, Cheap Rate will apply from 6 pm on 23rd December until 8 am on 4th January.

INTERNATIONAL
Operator Service Restrictions. Only pre-booked operator calls will be handled between 11 pm, Christmas Eve and 9 am, 26th December. There will be no directory enquiry service or special facility calls. (International calls can be pre-booked at any time between 8 am, 12th December up to 6 pm, Christmas Eve, by calling the international operator).

Extended Cheap Rate Periods. Most calls can be dialled direct and the IDD Cheap Rate will be extended to cover the entire holiday season, starting at 6 pm on Friday 23rd

December and running right through till after New Year. In England, Wales and Northern Ireland it will end at 8 am on Tuesday 3rd January; in Scotland, at 8 am on Wednesday 4th January.

In addition, over these periods, a special reduced rate will apply to IDD calls to Australasia and the Far East (Charge Band 5B) made between midnight and 7 am, and between 3 pm and 8 pm.

This reduced rate will be the same as Charge Band 5A Cheap Rate. At other times calls to Charge Band 5B will be at Standard Rate.

TELEGRAM AND TELEMESSAGE RESTRICTIONS

Acceptance of Telegrams will be suspended from 7 pm on Christmas Eve until 9 am on 26th December. Telegrams for delivery before Christmas Day should be requested by 12 noon on 20th December, and before New Year's Day by 12 noon on 28th December.

Acceptance of International Telegrams will be suspended from 7 pm, Christmas Eve until 9 am, 26th December. Delivery of Telegrams and International Telegrams will be suspended on Christmas Day, 26th and 27th December.

We will provide an emergency service for International Telegrams during this period and attempt to deliver, wherever possible, exceptionally urgent messages received from overseas.

British TELECOM

Tougher screening could halt Everest climb

By Ronald Faux

Mountaineers from Cumbria who plan to attempt the West Ridge of Everest next spring, fear they could be the first victims of a more stringent screening policy by the Mount Everest Foundation.

The foundation awards grants to expeditions and its approval is an important bonus for helping mountaineers and explorers to secure other sponsorship from grant-aiding bodies and industry.

The eight-man Cumbrian expedition has applied for the foundation's approval, but so far has had no response after members were interviewed by the screening committee. It is understood that approval may not be given because only one of the team has climbed to more than 23,000 ft, or has experience of ultra-altitude mountaineering.

The foundation's tougher policy comes after research by Michael Ward, doctor on the

1953 Everest expedition and a member of the screening committee, which shows that the trend towards lightweight, alpine-style expeditions to the world's highest mountains without the use of supplementary oxygen could involve unacceptable high risks.

The committee now takes into account climbers' past experience and evidence of how they are likely to perform at altitude. Information studied by the foundation includes an analysis by Mr Ward of 64 deaths on the world's 10 highest peaks up to their first ascent. This calculated that 22 deaths were related directly to oxygen lack in one way or another.

The new guidelines are questioned and criticized by many in the mountaineering world.

Dr John Delamere, doctor to the Cumbrian expedition, complained that Mr Ward was

using unpublished material to reach his conclusions, and he questioned whether a meaningful index of a climber's susceptibility to altitude sickness could be made.

"For example, there is no clear-cut investigation that can be made at sea level into how a person will perform at high altitude," he said.

"There are many more factors which must be taken into the equation and it seems that the foundation has changed from a body that funds expeditions and adventurous pursuits into a protector of individuals against themselves."

Other Himalayan climbers questioned the idea that climbing above 26,000 ft without supplementary oxygen was the exclusive realm of supermen or those who had passed a foundation lung-capacity test. One pointed out that 19

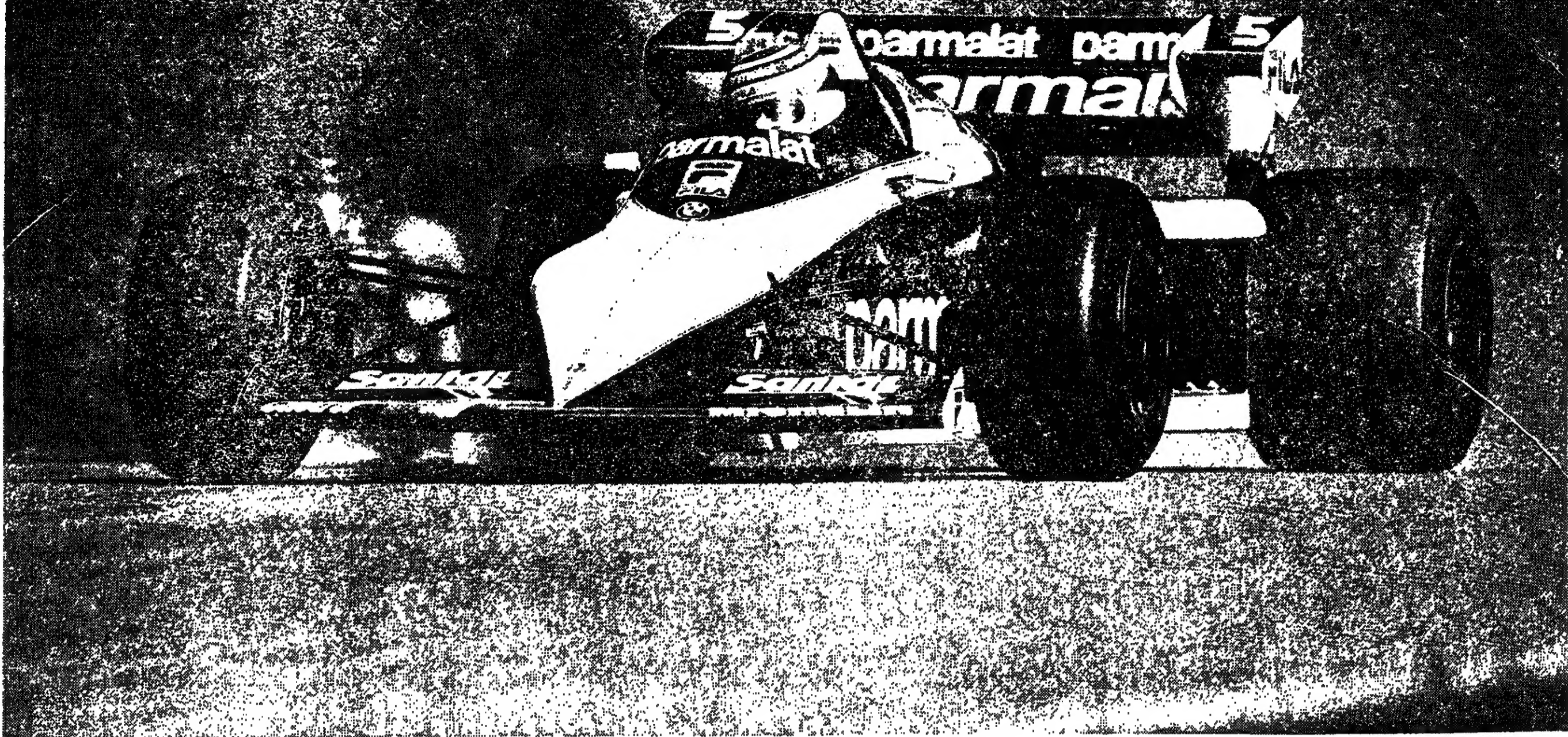
climbers had now reached the summit of Everest without oxygen, 11 of them on a German expedition last year. Other peaks almost equalling Everest in height had been climbed several times by small expeditions.

Some climbers had lost their lives but it was felt by many that the decision to make the attempt should be left to the judgment of individual mountaineers.

Sir Jack Longland, former president of the Alpine Club, and an Old Everest hand, thought it was highly improbable that fatal accidents to British Everest climbers would show a single case of death caused only by pushing an assault without oxygen beyond any given height.

Human performance under stress depended on too many variables to be subsumed into one single test.

IS IT SO SURPRISING A BMW ENGINE POWERED THE WORLD CHAMPION TO VICTORY IN ITS FIRST FULL SEASON?



AFTER ALL, WE'VE BEEN ROAD TESTING IT FOR YEARS.



1983 saw Nelson Piquet carry off the Formula One Drivers' World Championship in his Parmalat Brabham BMW.

It also saw the first occasion on which a World Champion's engine started life under the bonnet of a four cylinder road car.

Which speaks volumes for the quality of engineering BMW pour into their ordinary road cars. If indeed a BMW can ever be called an ordinary car.

THE ULTIMATE DRIVING MACHINE



South African immigrants who dodge call-up may be forced to serve in Army

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

Thousands of foreign immigrants to South Africa, including many Britons, face the possibility of compulsory service in the South African armed forces under a proposed new bill on citizenship unveiled in draft form on Thursday night by General Magnus Malan, the Minister of Defence, and Mr F W De Klerk, the Minister of Internal Affairs.

The draft Bill, published in the Government Gazette, and is now open for discussion and comment, it will presumably be placed before the House of Assembly in Cape Town at its next session, which starts at the end of January. It is a response to growing bitterness among white South Africans at the (legal) evasion of call-up by many foreign settlers.

Under the existing law, foreigners can obtain permanent residence rights here, which include a work permit, without being obliged to take out South African citizenship, which would make them liable for military duties. Large numbers of immigrants avail themselves of this loophole.

The 1980 population census lists just under 200,000 whites - more than 4 per cent of the total white population - as being of British nationality. Some of these may have taken out South African citizenship as well, but it is thought that the vast majority of British settlers do not do so.

All young white South African male citizens, in contrast, are obliged by law to do two years' national service, and then a further 720 days of camp duty in instalments spread over a period of up to 12 years. In legislation passed last year, the penalty for refusing the draft was raised from two to six years in jail.

The scope for conscientious objection is very limited. Religious pacifists who can convince a specially appointed board of their sincerity are offered the unappealing alternative of six unbroken years of "community service" outside the army in jobs chosen by the authorities.

Not surprisingly, the privileged position of immigrants has caused widespread resentment. There are complaints that they have a head-start in their careers over South African citizens, and that many employers give preference to immigrants because they know they will not be called away for military duty. Many immigrants are accused of flaunting their favoured status.

Under the proposed new Bill all immigrants between the ages of 15 and 25 would have five years in which to decide whether to apply for citizenship. If, at the end of that period, they decide not to become South African citizens, they will lose their permanent residence rights and hence their work permits.

It is not entirely clear what the position of immigrants over the age of 25 would be, and this is no doubt one of the aspects that will be clarified during debate on the Bill. Opposition MPs have already expressed concern that the new law might cause immigrants with vital skills to leave the country and frighten off potential immigrants from coming.

One of the reasons for the generous treatment of immigrants hitherto is that the pool of skilled manpower in a white population which is growing much more slowly than non-white groups is no longer adequate to meet the demands of South Africa's expanding economy. This is bringing blacks into skilled positions where they wield much greater trade union bargaining power.

White immigration has been rising in recent years, amounting to 45,784 in 1982 compared with 41,542 in 1981 and 29,365 in 1980. Figures for December, 1982, suggest that just under a fifth of all immigrants currently come from Britain.

At present, conscription is limited to whites, with much smaller numbers of blacks, coloureds and Asians serving on a voluntary basis. The Government has indicated, however, that compulsory military service will gradually be extended to Coloureds and Asians when they get the vote.



Flying visit: Mr Michael Heseltine, the Defence Secretary, reviewing British troops serving with the peace-keeping force in Lebanon during a surprise visit yesterday to Beirut lasting a few hours.

US and Israel clash over Arafat

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

The US and Israel appear set on a new collision course over their differing assessments of the reconciliation between President Mubarak of Egypt and Mr Yasser Arafat, the PLO leader.

Yesterday, Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Prime Minister, expressed his astonishment at America's positive reaction to the Cairo meeting, which he described as a bad omen for the future because it harmed the peace process in the Middle East.

Mr Shamir told a visiting US senator that the Reagan Administration had incorrectly assessed what lay behind the Cairo talks. He claimed that after Mr Arafat's expulsion from Tripoli, there had been a good chance that "moderate forces in the Arab world" would join the peace process. "But now, as a result of the meeting in Cairo and the American

reaction to it, these moderate elements will disappear," he claimed.

There were also hints in Jerusalem that the Israeli Government will not agree to any future talks with King Hussein of Jordan if he has to seek first the prior blessing of Mr Arafat. But no official stand has yet been taken on this crucial point.

A senior official said that on no account would Israel change its rejection of the Reagan peace plan. "For us this is something that affects our very existence," he stated. "It is a matter of life and death and we will not back down."

The official claimed that the recent marked improvement in Israeli-US relations would survive the fundamental difference of approach to the Mubarak-Arafat meeting. "Our disagreements over that are only an

extension of differences of opinion recently exchanged in Washington, over the whole Reagan plan," he explained.

● Bethlehem guards: After the recent wave of grenade attacks against religious targets, Israel is mounting an intensified security operation to protect the estimated 12,000 pilgrims visiting the holy sites for Christmas.

A special force of 700 police will be assigned to the sites in addition to squads of heavily armed soldiers and Border Police. All roads leading to Bethlehem in the occupied West Bank will be blocked from 7.00 am this morning with only cars issued with special permits allowed access. Pilgrims attending the televised Christmas Eve celebrations have been warned to carry passports or identity cards on the special buses which will ferry them from East Jerusalem.

The spate of pre-Christmas bombing at targets which have included two Greek Orthodox institutions and a Franciscan monastery, has been claimed by a right wing Jewish terrorist group called "Terror against Terror". The motive for the attacks was seen in part as revenge for the Jerusalem bus bomb earlier this month in which six passengers were killed.

Despite the tension, official Israeli sources claim that the number of Christian tourists arriving through Tel Aviv airport has nearly doubled compared to last year, when the total was badly hit as the result of the Lebanon war. But Jerusalem hoteliers speak of many recent cancellations as a result of the present grave situation throughout the Middle East.

Ciskei court refuses to free priest

From Our Own Correspondent Johannesburg

An urgent application to release, or produce before a court, a detained Roman Catholic priest, Father Smanegiso Mkhathshwa, was yesterday refused by the supreme Court of Ciskei, one of South Africa's four nominally-independent tribal homelands.

Father Mkhathshwa was detained by Ciskei security police at the end of October after he attended what the authorities considered to be a politically-motivated church service at the University of Fort Hare, South Africa's most famous black university.

Archbishop Dennis Hurley, the president of the southern African Catholic Bishop's Conference (sacbe), sought a court order two weeks ago requiring Father Mkhathshwa to be freed or brought before a court.

Father Mkhathshwa is Secretary-General of the SABC and one of the honorary patrons of the United Democratic Front, an all-race body formed earlier this year to oppose apartheid, and the Government's new constitution which gives limited parliamentary rights to Coloureds and Asians, but none to blacks.

● Old enemies: Father Mkhathshwa and Monsignor Hurley are long-time critics of apartheid, particularly the Government policy that blacks are citizens only of tribal homelands, not of white South Africa (AP reports).

Pretoria admits to Angola incursion

From Our Own Correspondent, Johannesburg

South Africa has admitted that its armed forces are engaged in a "limited campaign" against guerrillas of the South West African People's Organisation (SWAPO) in Southern Angola.

The admission, made yesterday by General Constand Viljoen, the Chief of the South African Defence Force, came after a week of claims from Angola that its troops were involved in fierce battles with SADF units, and that the South Africans were bombarding towns and villages in the southern part of the country.

Earlier South African defence spokesmen had refused comment on specific Angolan allegations, and said that South Africa was "only" engaged in "hot-pursuit operations against SWAPO terrorists" whom it would continue to seek out and destroy "wherever they are".

General Viljoen's statement, while still vague, suggests that something rather more substantial than a routine "hot pursuit" operation may be under way.

The communiqué said that "elements of the security forces are involved in a limited campaign against SWAPO terrorists in Southern Angola and are conducting a follow-up operation" to ward off an expected attempt by SWAPO units to infiltrate Namibia during the rainy season.

The General's statement does not admit to any clashes with Angolan forces, and the South Africans claim that their only

targets are Swapo bases. Swapo has been fighting a sporadic bush war against South Africa for the independence of Namibia for the past 17 years.

Angola radio claimed on Thursday that the South Africans had launched a ground attack against Angolan forces near Cahama, a strategic town about 80 miles inside Angola as the crow flies, and also reinforced their positions at Quiveo, 50 miles to the north east, and Otchinhue, 35 miles to the south west.

Cahama is said to be the most southerly town held by Angolan and Cuban forces, of which there are an estimated 25,000 in Angola as well as the most southerly location of Sam's anti-aircraft missiles recently acquired from the Soviet Union.

Reports of heavy fighting started to emerge after Angola had rejected an offer by South Africa to begin disengaging its forces from southern Angola from January 31 of next year provided that Angola undertook to restrain Swapo and Cuban forces from exploiting "the resultant situation".

● LISBON: Angolan rebels said yesterday they would hand over all their foreign captives except Czechoslovaks to the International Red Cross as a goodwill gesture for Christmas (Reuters reports).

A spokesman for the rebel group Unita said five Britons and 12 Portuguese captured.

Shortage of toys mars Sandinista Christmas

From Alan Tomlinson, Managua

Children's toys for Christmas have joined the long list of goods in short supply in socialist Nicaragua.

While the Sandinista Government blames the fact that it is the victim of a US economic and military siege for much of the problem, it has admitted that queue-jumping by state officials and an inability to control the black market have made matters worse.

President Reagan's trade sanctions have forced the Sandinistas to buy where they can. Electrical goods find their way into the country from Panama for those who can afford them, out toothpaste is scarce because there is no supply of tubes to put it in.

Most foodstuffs are rationed but while meat is usually available, cooking oil and other basics are not. There is rarely any bread because Washington will not sell Nicaragua its wheat and there is little sugar left for domestic consumption because home-grown cane must go abroad to bring in precious foreign exchange.

When the Interior Minister, Señor Borge took a visiting American senator to dine on beans and rice, the staple diet of central America, at a typical neighbourhood eating place in the capital, they ate only rice because beans were off that day.

The Christmas toy crisis provides a neat illustration of the kind of problems facing the country.

Lack of foreign exchange forced the Sandinistas to limit toy imports to \$400,000 (£280,000) this year compared to over a million dollars last Christmas.

Shortages of paint and machine tool parts have also prevented the People's Forestry Corporation from achieving its target of fulfilling 25 per cent of traditional imports with toys made from scraps of wood.

Forty tons of toys donated by East European countries have just been delivered for distribution to children in the northern border provinces affected by the CIA-financed guerrilla war, but a hostload of \$60,000 worth of dolls from Cuba is overdue.

On top of all this, the commerce vice-minister in charge of distribution, Señor Bernardino Turcios, admitted that many government officials had abused their positions to buy toys from official warehouses while other people stood in line from early morning with an allotted queue number.

In the afternoon the Sandinista army turned up for preferential treatment and the shelves were emptied with the queue still waiting outside.

A limit of three toys per shopper was imposed at Managua's seasonal street fair in a bid to ensure that every Nicaraguan child gets something this Christmas.

Colombian guerrillas demand ceasefire

From Geoffrey Matthews, Bogota

Colombia's two main guerrilla forces have called on President Belisario Betancur Cuatrecasas to order a ceasefire in regions where they are active as a gesture towards ending the conflict.

The Colombian Revolutionary Armed Forces (FARC) and the April 19 Movement (M19) made their call in a joint communiqué in which they announced the strengthening of links between them and expressed agreement on the criteria for peace. However, they did not announce unification of their forces, which will continue to maintain their identities.

They insisted that a ceasefire was "a necessary step for the development of conditions and dialogue for peace." This has long been the main sticking point between the guerrillas and the Government since President Betancur introduced an amnesty for subversives more than a year ago.

The amnesty has been supported across the political spectrum, including the Communist Party and mainstream Socialist groups. Although FARC and M19, like other smaller subversive groups, have rejected the amnesty after fierce and often divisive debate, more than 1,000 guerrillas have surrendered, accepting official pardons, and returned to civilian life.

Even though FARC and M19 praise President Betancur's "goodwill" and "political realism", it is most unlikely that he can respond to their for a ceasefire since there is a widespread feeling that the terms of the amnesty are being abused. The armed forces have never been happy with the amnesty and would fiercely oppose more concessions.

New broom sweeps out Watt's man

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

Mr William Clark, the new US Interior Secretary, has replaced three top officials who served under his controversial predecessor, Mr James Watt.

Mr Clark, who took over a month ago, said he was reorganizing his department's land, water and energy agencies. He is replacing the deputy and the two men closest to Mr Watt's criticized programmes.

But spokesmen for environmental groups are not satisfied. One claimed that the changes did not go far enough and that the Interior Department was full of Watt protégés.

Mr Clark replaced Mr J J Simmons, the department deputy and one of the Administration's highest-ranking blacks, with Mrs Ann McLaughlin, the Assistant Secretary, and his assistant, Mr Dave Russell, key architects of Mr Watt's programmes for accelerating development of offshore oil and gas reserves and coal. They are replaced by Mr Robert Broadben and Mr William Bettenberg.

Today's taste of Utopia

December 21st

Today's taste of utopia, coming from the global assembly of experts in the Maharishi Technology of the Unified Field at Maharishi International University Fairfield, Iowa, USA, is highlighted by today's world news.

- National confidence high in US. "Confidence is in the air and for good reason".
- President Reagan says US economy is staging a strong recovery and speaks optimistically regarding prospects for 1984.
- Credit crash for US farmers easing.
- Financial Times Index, London, and Nikkei Dow Index, Tokyo, both close at new record highs.
- United Kingdom economy on course for 3 per cent growth rate.
- Main left wing militant group in Argentina announces it will dissolve itself, renounce violence, and pursue future as legal political party.
- Government of Sudan frees towns from rebel siege.
- Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus calls for talks with Greek-ruled Cyprus to establish federation on the island.
- Sri Lankan President extends olive branch to opposition party.

These world events demonstrate the enhancement of the following qualities of the unified field in world consciousness:

- UNIFYING: "CREATIVITY", "PURIFICATION", "SUPPORT OF NATURE".

Modern Science, Vedic Science

Leading physicist Dr John Hagelin, Chairman of the Department of Physics at Maharishi International University, has located these qualities in the Lagrangian of the N=8 supergravity theory of quantum physics. Dr Hagelin sees the upsurge of these qualities in world consciousness to be the result of the cultivation of the unified field in world consciousness.

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- UNIFYING: increased integration of brain functioning.
- PURIFICATION: increased stress and improved resistance to disease.
- SUPPORT OF NATURE: decreased problems.

Psychological

- UNIFYING: increased integration of personality.
- PURIFICATION: increased creativity.
- SUPPORT OF NATURE: increased moral maturity.

Sociological

- UNIFYING: improved social relations.
- PURIFICATION: increased industrial and agricultural productivity and economic prosperity.
- SUPPORT OF NATURE: greater sense of social responsibility.

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Iraq claims sinking of Iranian ship

Baghdad (Reuters) - Iraq said its Navy yesterday sank an Iranian salvage ship which had been trying to save a damaged vessel near the Iranian port of Bandar Khomeini in the Gulf.

A military spokesman said the Iraqi Navy sank the Iranian ship as it tried to rescue an "enemy" vessel hit by Iraqi aircraft on Thursday.

The damaged vessel was also sunk, the spokesman said. He did not identify it, but said it was one of three "enemy naval targets" hit by Iraqi aircraft as they approached Bandar Khomeini in a convoy on Thursday.

Iraq has used the term "enemy naval targets" in the past and on at least two occasions foreign shipowners have confirmed that their merchant vessels were hit.

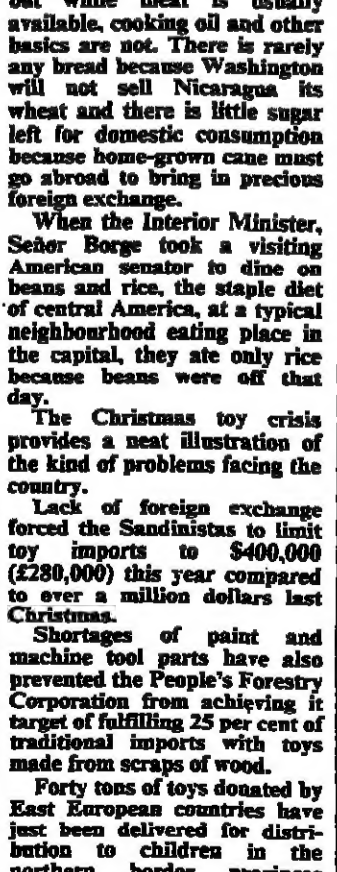
Iraq has warned all foreign vessels to stay out of what it considers an "exclusive war zone" between Iran and Iraq at the head of the Gulf. The two countries have been at war for more than three years.

Iran complained to the United Nations earlier this week that two foreign merchant ships approaching its Gulf ports had been damaged recently by Iraqi aircraft and that Iran reserved the right to retaliate against Iraqi shipping.

In the past two months, Iraq has said it sank at least 16 ships in the Gulf.

● PARIS: The French Government has decided to close the Iranian Islamic Centre in Paris and has asked the Tehran Government to recall three diplomats associated with it, the French Foreign Ministry announced yesterday (AP reports).

A communiqué said the decision was taken after the closure in Iran of the French Institute of Tehran and the French Research Institute in recent months.



Back from the dead: Mgr Schaefer (left) and Father Shafer.

Missing bishop 'found alive'

Tegucigalpa (Reuters) - A group of Nicaraguan Miskito Indians crossed into Honduras yesterday and said the missing American-born Catholic Bishop, Mgr Salvador Schaefer, was with them, a US embassy spokesman said.

The 500 Indians crossed the border at dawn. The fate of the 65-year-old bishop has been in doubt since Nicaraguan officials said he was kidnapped by right-wing rebels and killed earlier this week.

Embassy spokesmen said they had not yet identified Mgr Schaefer, an American citizen living in Nicaragua since 1947

and Bishop of Bluefields on Nicaragua's Atlantic coast.

Nicaraguan government officials said on Wednesday that the bishop was kidnapped and shot dead when he resisted anti-Sandinista rebels raiding the village of Wisconsin near the Honduran border. Another American priest, Father Andre Wendell Schaefer, and two Miskito Indian deacons were also abducted, together with a number of villagers.

Nicaraguan troops combed the area on Thursday and found the bishop's car but no sign of him. US-backed rebels in Honduras denied they had kidnapped him.

Miskito Indian rebels said Wisconsin had been attacked but its inhabitants were being voluntarily led to sanctuary in Honduras. They said Mgr Schaefer had decided to go along with the villagers.

Rebels seeking to overthrow Nicaragua's Sandinista Government have been staging raids across the border for the past few months. They launched a new offensive last weekend, saying they were trying to establish a provisional government in a "liberated area".

Mgr Schaefer expected to arrive in Tegucigalpa later yesterday.

Bonn buys freedom for 1,034 prisoners

Bonn (AFP) - West Germany has bought the release of 1,034 political prisoners from East German jails this year, the International Society for the Defence of Human Rights said here.

According to the society, West Germany has paid out more than £250m in the past 20 years to obtain the release of 20,036 prisoners. Several of the released had been serving long sentences either for refusing to cooperate with the intelligence services or for supporting the outlawed Polish union, Solidarity.

Sweden expels Soviet envoys

Sweden yesterday expelled two Soviet diplomats and a private Soviet citizen, all suspected of industrial espionage. None of the trio was named by police and the Foreign Ministry released few details on the affair (Christopher Mosey writes).

This is understood to be because Mr Olof Palme's Socialist Government is extremely anxious not to jeopardize chances of a meeting between the Soviet Foreign Minister, Mr Andrei Gromyko, and the US Secretary of State Mr George Shultz, at next month's Stockholm peace conference.

Man accused of gems trick

Sydney (Reuters) - A 49-year-old unemployed man, alleged to be behind Australia's most costly confidence trick has been charged with the theft of gold and gems worth more than £1.25m.

Robert McArthur faces further charges involving the theft of diamonds valued at £1.58m. Police said he solicited for contributions to a gold and gems exhibition and the disappeared with the valuables.

Laser system seized in US

Denver (Reuters) - Customs officers seized a laser system bound for the Soviet Union and filled the four crates, housing the equipment, with concrete before sending them on to Moscow.

Norman Comersford, aged 38, a British citizen with permanent US resident status, and Bruce Adamski, aged 30, were arrested on charges of violating arms export controls.

Quake kills 200

Dakar (AFP) - More than 200 people were killed and about 300 were injured in an earthquake on Thursday in the West African state of Guinea, according to Radio Conakry, monitored in Senegal.

Fatal error

Bulawayo (AP) - Peter Sibanda, aged 27, was electrocuted here last month when he ignored his wife's advice and tried to charge his car battery from an overhead power cable, a Bulawayo inquest was told.

Bodies returned

Bangkok (AFP) - Laos has returned the bodies of an unspecified number of American soldiers reported missing in action, and whose bodies were found at the site of an 11-year-old plane crash.

Brazil lynching

Sao Paulo (AP) - Three bandits, one of them a 13-year-old boy, who had terrorized people in a Sao Paulo suburb, were beaten and stabbed to death by an angry mob.

Freedom swim

Berlin (AP) - Two West German border guards escaped to West Berlin yesterday by swimming across the Teltow Canal on the edge of the communist sector.

Monk jailed

Seoul (AFP) - A 34-year-old South Korean Buddhist monk has been sentenced to life imprisonment after a fight over the control of a temple last August.

Aid to Africa

Britain is providing £250,000 to help drought victims in Mozambique. In Lagos, it was announced that the United States is to lend Nigeria £170m to help to combat drought.

Disco toll rises

Madrid (AP) - The death toll from last week's fire at a crowded disco here climbed to 81 yesterday after firemen recovered two more bodies from the rubble.

Milan blaze

Milan (AP) - A fire in a crowded restaurant here killed five customers and injured at least six. The blaze was caused by a gas container exploding.

Correction

The Spanish Embassy says that Juan Domingo Morera, whose extradition to Spain has been refused by the French Government, was condemned in July, 1983, in absence, to 10 years imprisonment, not to death, as stated in a report on December 15.

Handwritten notes and advertisements on the right margin, including "You've had help you swallow receive a warm v" and "MORE INFORMATION".



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Soviet Union loses hope of ending Afghan war four years after invasion

As the war in Afghanistan approaches its fifth year, diplomats in Moscow say the Kremlin shows little optimism about the chances of a political settlement or an end to the military stalemate.

President Andropov gave some signs shortly after taking office of the Afghan impasse. The Soviet occupation of Afghanistan has complicated Soviet relations with China, the Muslim countries and the West. It is also unpopular at home, although discontent is rarely voiced. But over the past year the Soviet press has been unusually frank about casualties and setbacks.

In April, Señor Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the United Nations Secretary-General, took up Mr Andropov's invitation to visit Moscow for talks on the Afghan crisis, and said afterwards he saw signs of flexibility, without saying what they were. Nine months on, Russia's justification for its occupation of Afghanistan remains exactly what it was a year ago, when *Pravda* insisted on international recognition of the Soviet-installed Babrak Karmal regime.

From Richard Owen, Moscow

and said a withdrawal of Soviet powers agreed to stop the "imperialist interference" which had made Soviet intervention necessary in the first place.

The latest Soviet commentaries marking the fourth anniversary of the December, 1979, invasion vehemently attack "imperialist reactionaries" - Soviet jargon for the Mujahideen - for their shared "pathological hatred for progressive change in Afghanistan."

Diplomats said Soviet relations with Pakistan had worsened over the past year rather than improved. This week, the Soviet ambassador in Islamabad accused Pakistan of arming and supporting the rebels, and warned Islamabad that Moscow and Kabul would "retaliate."

UN sponsored talks involving Islamabad, Kabul and Sadr Durrani, Cordova, the UN special envoy, have made no progress, despite occasional hints of "movement" that matched suggestions of "flexibility" in Moscow.

Any loss of momentum is

partly attributable to President Andropov's prolonged illness and absence from public life, which diplomats say has also affected other key policy areas. But Moscow's support for Mr Karmal, and its insistence on "imperialist" guarantees of non-intervention, make the Afghan problem as intractable politically as it is militarily.

Asian diplomats point out that the true cost of the operation remains hidden in Moscow's defence budget, and that the Russians are prepared for a drawn out war of attrition. Diplomats believe that since Moscow gains important strategic advantages from its presence in Afghanistan, the Kremlin has decided to settle for a prolonged and unpleasant conflict unless East-West relations improve to the point where concessions over Afghanistan become part of a move to restore détente.

"Russia may have suffered 5,000 casualties in four years," one diplomat remarked, "and is ritually condemned at the UN every November, but that on its own is not enough to make it withdraw."

Christmas in Russia with Grandfather Frost and his Snow Maiden

A bottle for a yolka or a sosna

Which do you prefer, a yolka or a sosna? It is a question which throws most foreigners here at Christmas. After all, a Christmas tree is a Christmas tree - except in Russia. Strictly speaking it is a new year tree that a Russian puts in his living room since Christmas is not a public holiday and in the Orthodox calendar does not occur until January. Besides, the atheist Soviet state firmly discourages observance of religious festivals.

To meet the natural demand for end-of-year rituals New Year's Day has become the focus of Soviet celebrations, complete with all the commercialized trappings familiar in the West: seasonal greetings cards, packed toy shops, excessive eating and drinking, and of course yolks and sosnas decorated with gaily coloured baubles and lights. A yolka, for the record, is a fir tree, and a sosna is a pine. Most Russians have yolks, but those who help we enlisted in the search for a tree were under the unshakable impression that West Europeans go in for pines. Consequently a splendid sosna now stands in the window of *The Times* flat above the traffic of Kutuzovskiy Prospekt, a cheerful sight for pedestrians and for officials whizzing past in Zils and Volgas.

Getting hold of a tree is not all that easy, and can involve traditional Russian ingenuity and wheeler-dealing. You can buy them in markets dotted round Moscow, at five or six roubles each (24-25 they are not too expensive. But as usual with desirable goods, there are often enormous queues.

Some Russians risk the wrath of the authorities by venturing into the state-protected woods near the city and taking an axe to the yolka of their choice. But there is a stiff fine for yolka-lifting, and any foreigner caught in hand would no doubt find himself charged with theft of state property and on the next plane home.

Westerners can order a tree



Tree-time: A Moscow family heading home with their yolka (fir tree).

officially, provided they remember to write a letter well in advance. Those who panic as Christmas approaches tree-less can turn to a fixer, on of the invaluable middlemen who keep the wheels of the Soviet system working by finding ways round red tape and discreetly making the connection between demand and supply.

One colleague slipped a Russian acquaintance two bottles of vodka (measure of the going rate) and asked him to put in a word with a friendly forester. Back came the man the next day with two yolks. "But I only asked for one" my colleague said. "Two bottles, two trees" came the reply.

There was a time when foreigners in Moscow would enter the snow-bound forests with official sanction and ride round on a Russian sleigh to select their tree. Unfortunately, so Moscow legend has it, the sleigh rides became uproarious fun and were stopped. Nowadays you can take a romantic trouka ride only within the tamer confines of the Moscow Park of Economic Achievements. By and large it is now children who ride round the snow covered city streets in tiny sledges pulled by their mothers, usually in the general

direction of Moscow's huge toy shops.

In Children's World, the main such store (next to KGB headquarters - curiously enough), Father Christmas - known in Russia as Grandfather Frost - entertains young Muscovites in his familiar red robes and cotton wool beard for an hour each day (The plan only allows him an hour, and he has norms to fulfill elsewhere).

For five roubles a Dial-a-Santa service will bring Grandfather Frost to your home, provided you supply him with toys beforehand and a nip of vodka afterwards. He is invariably accompanied by a Snow Maiden, a product of the Russian imagination with no Western counterpart. Racy thoughts about frolics in the snow should be banished, however, since the Snow Maiden in her tightly buttoned, sparkling white outfit has a chaste and frosty manner to match.

The toys in Santa's sack do not include video games or Action Man, but Children's World products are remarkably good value. Some, such as tin lorries with sharp edges or cuddly bears with detachable

eyes, would not pass British safety standards. But Russian children love the imaginative glove puppets and carved wooden toys, not to mention replicas of Soviet tanks and guns, swiftly snapped up by small boys apparently unaware that war toys are supposed to be ideologically unsound and only sold in the militaristic West.

This year the throng in Children's World and The House of Toys has been swelled by harassed parents from the foreign community, many of whom had intended to return to the West rather than sample a Russian Christmas. Carefully laid plans were upset by President Andropov himself, whose illness has delayed scheduled meetings of the Central Committee and Supreme Soviet (normally held in November) until the last possible moment.

The Central Committee now meets next Monday, making Boxing Day a working day for foreign diplomats and correspondents when they might have expected to be quietly recovering from too much imported Christmas pudding and brandy butter.

Richard Owen

Woman who wanted to starve force-fed

From Trevor Fishlock, New York

The tragic story of Elizabeth Bouvia has touched millions of Americans. She is now being fed through a tube in hospital having lost her court battle to be allowed to starve and end what she says is a life not worth living.

A judge ordered the hospital to force-feed her after being told she had been refusing food and was in serious danger of dying.

Mrs Bouvia, who is 26, was born with cerebral palsy and is almost completely paralysed. She can only talk, chew, and operate the control stick of her wheelchair. She cannot feed herself and needs assistance with all her functions.

"Nevertheless, her life has been one of courageous struggle and she has earned a degree in social work.

Three months ago, after her brief marriage ended, she went into a California hospital, and said she wanted to starve. When doctors insisted on feeding her, she went to court in Riverside near Los Angeles to seek an order preventing doctors from force-feeding her.

She told the judge she would rather die than continue a life which, "at times is humiliating and disgusting." She said she had the right to die in hospital with the support of pain killing drugs and hygienic care.

Her action started a controversy. Many people say she has the right to end her life, but the hospital said in court that she was not terminally ill, and that doctors could not be accomplices to suicide.

Mrs Bouvia was yesterday being fed intravenously.

Why Invincible will not be visiting Japan

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

The British aircraft carrier, *Invincible*, will not visit Japan, it was officially confirmed yesterday.

Sources, however, said that she was likely to go into dry dock in Singapore to have faults in bearings on a propeller shaft repaired. Both moves stem from the lack of enthusiasm which some countries have for receiving vessels carrying nuclear weapons.

Consultations over a visit to Japan had been going on for a long time Japan had said it was willing to receive the ship, but had emphasized its policy of not admitting nuclear weapons.

Britain has stuck to its policy of refusing to say whether its vessels are carrying nuclear weapons, although it is likely

that there are nuclear depth charges on board *Invincible*.

The suit that the Ministry of Defence yesterday said that a visit by *Invincible* over her escorts to Japan "would not be timely".

Invincible is now in Australia, and her arrival in Sydney earlier this week was greeted by anti-nuclear demonstrations. If she goes to Singapore for repairs after Christmas, as seems likely, it will be because Australia originally refused to allow her into drydock.

Australia subsequently withdrew its objections, but by then negotiations with Singapore were advanced, and Britain declined to use Australia.

An alternative to Singapore is the United States naval base at Subic Bay in the Philippines.

White House in Vatican tangle

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

American plans to follow the example set by Britain three years ago and establish diplomatic relations with the Vatican are meeting unexpected resistance from non-Roman Catholic churches in the United States.

Protestants have got together to lobby the White House and Congress, arguing that it would violate the constitutional principle of separation of church and state, they have been joined by the American Jewish Congress which says it would be a mistake for the Government to relate to any particular religious body in a preferential way.

Unlike some religious disputes, this one is being conducted in a gentlemanly fashion. Recognizing the influence of the Roman Catholic Church, which has more than 50 million followers in the US, the Protestants insist they are not

trying to oppose the move simply because it is supported by most Catholics. "We are not at war with them," and official for the (Protestant) National Council of Churches said.

For its part, the Catholic hierarchy, while privately welcoming America's belated attempt to follow 107 other nations which already have diplomatic ties with the Vatican, professes to be officially neutral.

Administration moves to establish relations follow a congressional decision last November to repeal an 1867 law which prohibited the use of Federal funds to maintain a diplomatic mission to the Papacy.

Earlier this month, the White House conceded that it was moving in the direction of establishing formal ties, but

denied reports that Mr William Wilson, the President's personal but unofficial envoy to the Holy See, would become a fully-fledged ambassador.

Moves to formalize relations owe much to the efforts of Senator Richard Lugar (Republican, Indiana) who met the Pope earlier this year. Senator Lugar, a Presbyterian, said afterwards that the Pope deserved credit for transforming the Vatican into a "significant political force for decency in the world".

The establishment of relations would, he argued, recognize the Pope as leader of a sovereign state which is playing an increasingly important role in world affairs. Protestant opponents, acknowledging the case with which Congress approved the repeal of the 1867 law, have conceded that theirs is an uphill battle. But they intend to carry on fighting.

Yevtushenko falls foul of the Kremlin

From Our Own Correspondent, Moscow

Yevgeny Yevtushenko, Russia's best-known poet, has been bitterly attacked in a Soviet journal in terms which suggest that he has incurred the Kremlin's displeasure.

Yevtushenko, sometimes criticized in the West for compromising with the authorities, was recently feted on his fiftieth birthday by the official press but he has remained something of an irritant with his individual and unorthodox style.

His novel, *Yevgeny Places*, has come under fire in *Nash Sovremennik* (Our Contemporary) for its frank description of the Stalinist terror of the 1930s, including the killing and internment of peasants during enforced collectivization of agriculture.

In the novel, Yevtushenko describes how the campaign against allegedly rich peasants (kulaks) became indiscriminate. In areas like his native Siberia, where kulaks were few or nonexistent, police rounded up ordinary peasants to fulfil their quotas.

Nash Sovremennik said Stalinism was a "difficult period" to be explained in terms of the circumstances prevailing at the time, rather than taken out of context. *Berry Places* was a dishonest and immoral work, devoid of merit and should never have been published, the journal said.

Yevtushenko's reputation as a literary gadfly began in the 1960s when, as a young poet, he published *The History of Stalin* in which he gave warning that the tyrant might rise from the grave.

Ten years ago he phoned Mr Yuri Andropov - then head of the KGB - to protest against the arrest of the author, Alexander Solzhenitsyn. Mr Andropov told him to go home and sleep.

Nash Sovremennik also made scathing remarks about Yevtushenko's acting ability.

The attack would appear to augur badly for Yevtushenko's latest venture, a two-part film about his childhood which depicts the evacuation from Moscow to Siberia in the Second World War.

Spain denies dirty war by police

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

Spain is suffering from its past image Señor Felipe González, the Prime Minister, said here yesterday, speaking in defence of the police combating Basque terrorism.

Referring to renewed allegations of torture of police detainees and of "dirty war" methods in the light of Spanish police "missions" inside French territory, the Socialist Prime Minister described police conduct as "exemplary, even admitting the mistakes".

There were no longer any Basque "refugees" in France, he said, only "delinquents fleeing Spanish justice". The so-called revolutionary tax imposed by ETA the Basque separatist organization should be known for what it was - a "gangster-like extortion".

More than 90 per cent of claims by those arrested that they had been tortured proved on investigation to be false, Señor González said.

Greeks turn down inquiry into journalists

From Marvin Howe, New York Times, Athens

Greece has rejected a request from the country's largest-selling newspaper for an investigation of six Western journalists on charges that they are involved in a conspiracy against the freedom and interests of the Greek people.

The Government said there was no evidence to support the accusations, made in a leading article by the newspaper *Ethnos*.

The journalists had appeared as character witnesses for a Cypriot reporter, Paul Anastasiades, who was sentenced last week to two years in prison on charges of having libelled the publisher of *Ethnos*.

The case centred on Mr Anastasiades' book *Take the Nation in Your Hands* and a promotional press release he had written. That said *Ethnos* had links with the disinformation department of the KGB and that the publisher, Mr George Bobolas, was an agent of influence for the Soviet Union.

Ethnos said in a leading article last week that the witnesses for Mr Anastasiades had been moving easily under the protective cloak of international journalism while in reality they were organs of dark forces viciously fighting the freedom and interests of the Greek people.

The journalists protested to the Foreign Press Association here and the association made a formal protest on their behalf to the Government. The reply was delivered to the six journalists - Michael Skapinker of *Maclean's* magazine of Canada, Albert Coeran of Dutch Radio and Television, John Rogos of *Western Europe International*, Werner Rieder of *Der Tagesspiegel* of Berlin, Lee Stokes of the *Mail on Sunday* of London and *USA Today*, and myself.

The Government's reply was contained in a letter to the Foreign Press Association by Mr Dimitris Maroudas, the Under Secretary of Press and Information. It said of the journalists and the *Ethnos* charges against them: "There is no evidence whatsoever to support allegations that they engage in any profession of activity other than that of correspondent."

"The Government does not approve of these allegations, but on the contrary the Government disapproves of the attacks which occur from time to time against foreign correspondents, and it is determined to defend the integrity of all accredited foreign correspondents and the free exercise of their profession in this country."

The journalists' protest to the Foreign Press Association cited what they described as their unfair treatment at the trial and the tendentious and incorrect reports by *Ethnos*.

At the penal court trial, held as a result of a libel suit brought by Mr Bobolas, the plaintiff's attorneys denounced the defendant as a foreigner with no right to comment on Greek newspapers.

Anastasiades writes under the name Paul Anastasi and is a correspondent for *The Daily Telegraph* of London and a part-time correspondent for *The New York Times* with his witness, he was accused by the plaintiff's lawyer of being a foreign agent implicated in a plot against the Greek people.

After a four-day trial, the three judges convicted Mr Anastasiades of slanderous defamation, or spreading libel knowing that it was untrue.

Portuguese Christmas bonus cut

From Martha de la Cal, Lisbon

The traditional bonus Portuguese workers receive at Christmas will be reduced by 28 per cent this year. Last month the Government imposed a 2.8 per cent retroactive tax on all earnings for 1982. This tax was deducted just before Christmas in a lump sum from salaries which include the "thirteenth month bonus".

The tax has drastically reduced Christmas spending. Toyshops in central Lisbon are virtually empty compared with former years. Shopkeepers who stocked up with merchandise for Christmas are complaining they may be forced out of business.

The tax is not the only one the Portuguese face this Christmas. An estimated 150,000 workers have received no wages for several months, according to estimates by the Syndicate of Unions in Lisbon.

Hardest hit are the shipbuilding and ship repairing, textile, metalworking, glassmaking, fishing, ceramic and chemical industries and the merchant marine. This week workers at the giant Lisnave shipyard occupied the offices of the administration until they extracted a promise they would receive part of their back wages.

Some local authorities have voted emergency funds to distribute food to families of unpaid workers. Lisbon, where an estimated 30,000 workers are owed back salaries, is plastered with posters showing an unemployed worker and bearing the slogan: "What a Christmas!"

Another poster shows a little boy saying: "My father works but is not paid".

An all night vigil was being held by thousands of workers last night. The vigil was sponsored by the Communist-backed General Confederation of Portuguese Workers.



Christmas cheer: Former Wing Commander John Cox, freed with two other Zimbabwe Air Force officers, reunited with his family after 16 months in jail.

Harare plays down US aid cut

From Our Correspondent, Harare

Zimbabwe's relations with the United States have not been adversely affected by the Reagan Administration decision to cut its aid to the country, Mr Robert Mugabe, Prime Minister said here yesterday.

"We still regard the United States as a friend. We are not going to quarrel with a donor or benefactor who decides to withdraw aid from us. We were not entitled to that aid in the first place as a matter of right," Mr Mugabe said.

However, Zimbabwe felt let down because it had planned its land resettlement programme with American aid guarantees in mind. The aid reduction would force the Government to consider acquiring land for resettlement on a credit basis rather than the cash basis required at present by the

country's British-inspired constitution.

"Very few countries have carried out resettlement programmes after decolonization in the same way as we have had to do requiring cash all the time. In Kenya, they have had to resort to land bonds. We might have to think about that."

State Department officials announced on Tuesday that aid to Zimbabwe in 1984 would be cut to about \$40m (£27.5m), a reduction of \$35m.

Mr Mugabe said he found "extremely objectionable" State Department suggestions that the aid reduction was linked to Zimbabwe's opposition to US foreign policy. He denied any intention of refusing remaining US aid.

"Why should we reject it? We are a beneficiary and whatever aid comes to us, provided it has no strings attached, we will

accept," he said.

Later, Mr Mugabe told foreign correspondents that they need not comply with a law that bans reporting of security-related matters in almost half of the country.

The law, gazetted six weeks ago, restricts press reports on army and anti-government guerrilla activity in the troubled Matabeland and Midlands provinces to court trial testimony, parliamentary debate and official Government statements. Essentially a duplicate of a press censorship law once used by the white Rhodesian Government, it carries a penalty of one year's imprisonment or £660 fine.

Ministry of Information officials had passed word that the ban could be ignored to several foreign journalists, but the advice has been treated cautiously.

Cocos likely to join Australia

From Tony Duboudin, Melbourne

The Cocos Islands are likely to become part of the Northern Territory for electoral purposes should the 600-odd mainly Malay inhabitants decide to join Australia.

The Islanders are to have a United Nations-supervised plebiscite of self-determination next year, possibly in March, to decide whether to integrate with Australia, enter into a free association with Australia or become independent.

Mr Tom Uren, the Minister for Territories, visited the islands earlier this month and a spokesman said that all the indications were that the islanders would opt for integration.

Mr Paul Everingham, the Chief Minister of the Northern Territory, may go to the islands as part of a fact-finding mission after the suggestion on Wednesday by the federal Government that the islands be incorporated into the Northern Territory for federal electoral purposes.

A spokesman for Mr Uren said after the minister's visit that the federal Government's duty at this stage was simply to inform the people and ensure that they had a good picture of what the choices were.

"The definite impression was gained during the visit that the islanders want integration and they want the vote brought on quickly, possibly in March," the spokesman stated.

The Cocos Islands have been in the hands of the Clunies Ross family since the 1820s since Captain John Clunies Ross took over the islands

Tories ride high in Denmark

From Christopher Follett, Copenhagen

The first opinion poll since a general election was called for January 10 in Denmark predicts a massive victory for the conservative Party of Mr Poul Schlüter, the Prime Minister.

Conducted by the Vilstrup Institute for *Politiken*, the leading Copenhagen daily, and published yesterday, the poll shows support for the Conservatives has doubled from 14.5 per cent of the vote in the last election in December, 1981, to 29 per cent.

It would put the Conservatives on a par with the opposition Social Democrats, traditionally the biggest party. More significantly, the survey gives the four-party minority Conservative-Liberal coalition of Mr Schlüter a combined 47 per cent of the vote, ensuring its continuation after the election.

With the small, but pivotal, Radical Liberal Party, which supports the coalition, tipped to win 4 per cent of the vote, the prospect of the Government achieving majority parliamentary backing for its first Conservative leader since 1901, called elections last week after parliament rejected the coalition's key 1984 Finance Bill.

Since the Second World War, only two of 14 governments have managed to secure a majority. Thirteen parties are fighting the January election, the seventh in 13 years.

Eulogies for Schmidt as Brandt stays away

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

Statesmen, politicians, artists and musicians have paid tribute to former Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, who was celebrating his sixty-fifth birthday in his native Hamburg after being honoured with the freedom of the city.

M Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, the former French President, Dr Henry Kissinger, the former American Secretary of State, Mr Dries van Agt, the former Dutch Prime Minister, and leading politicians from the Federal Republic and the Social Democratic Party - with the notable exception of Herr Willy Brandt - were among the many distinguished guests who took part in a special gathering on Thursday night in a theatre in Herr Schmidt's constituency.

Mr Giscard, a close friend of Herr Schmidt when the two men were in office, called him the best known German of today in Europe and the world, and Herr Gerhard Stoltenberg, speaking for the Christian Democrats, who ousted Herr Schmidt from office, spoke of his outstanding achievements for Germany and Europe.

The former Chancellor, a keen collector of modern art and a noted musician - who has just accepted an invitation to play the piano at a concert given by Leonard Bernstein in Israel in May - told the many artists at the gathering that he did not think he had done enough for art when in office. President Karl Carstens, who drove to Herr Schmidt's house

to offer personal congratulations, presented him yesterday with a collection of 100 records, the complete recorded works of Bach.

Herr Brandt, Herr Schmidt's predecessor as Chancellor, whose relationship with him has become increasingly frosty, was invited but did not attend. Herr Schmidt also failed to go to Herr Brandt's seventieth birthday party last week.

Hamburg voted to make the former Chancellor an honorary citizen - one of a handful thus honoured - but the motion was opposed by the Greens in the city Senat, who called Herr Schmidt a demagogue and representative of capitalism.

The attack, in Herr Schmidt's presence on Thursday, added a sour note to an occasion which otherwise consisted of long speeches of praise.

Herr Schmidt has said he does not intend to stand for election at the end of the present parliament. He has become co-editor of the weekly *Die Zeit*. In this week's edition, he called in a leading article for his countrymen not to show so much anger over the deployment of new missiles.

Herr Schmidt also said in a radio interview yesterday that the deployment in Western Europe was a defeat for the Soviet leadership, but the West had to try to make it possible for the Russians to return to the negotiating table - which he thought likely in the end.

THE ARTS

Television

The price of tin

Coketown, first discovered by Dickens, has spread since like a disease. *Global Report* (BBC2) examined a typically malignant growth 15,000 feet up in the Bolivian Andes where the human victims creep thoughtfully about in the bright, lunar light.

Everything in *Siglo Veinte* revolves round the mine, whence the adult males extract tin for a fixed wage of £20 a month. "We don't expect to live long," said one. "Our life is finished in five years. There is no other work for us - there is nothing but the mine." The adult females spend a lot of time queuing at the company shop, where many are in chronic debt. The young wait to move up into the placed vacated by their parents.

The *Tin Trap* was based on a simple, even obvious idea: it followed one miner on his daily round, then accompanied him along the route taken by his produce to London. Higon Cussi Guzman, 33, smiling handsome, already once hospitalized for a year by a near-fatal accident, was seen lighting the touch-paper and standing (fairly) well clear, no wonder the devil, a blood-red, trident-tongued figure towering over him in the tunnel, gets so many prayers.

Tender farewells, then off to La Paz. First stop, surprise surprise, a roadblock by miners, and an address by a government official on the consequences of a drop in world prices. From La Paz to London, and to the Metal Exchange, where Higon was both amazed and amused.

Here young people earned their living as though by a party game, shouting and waving their fingers in the air. Higon wondered innocently whether more mature dealers might not take account of the human capital involved. A more mature dealer put him right. "It's aggressive, it's a young man's business. Human capital doesn't come into the calculation."

Then Higon went down a mine, surfaced full of wonder at the streamlined safety, and remarking enviously that in Britain "you can work a long time before you get silicosis". On the way back to *Siglo Veinte* he said he had learned how his mine could be improved. What had he learned? Something about the meaning of inflation.

Pride of Our Alley (ATV), Alan Plater's dramatization of the life of Gracie Fields, was cast in the form of a radio interview with the singer in middle age, with flashbacks to her gutsy, determined beginnings. Polly Hemingway was - really was - our Gracie, from first to last: a remarkable performance which evoked the sort of affectionate loyalty her real-life model evoked from millions of admirers. The music-hall scenes, filmed in sepia, looked grittily authentic; the snappy jokes rang wryly true; the voice modulated from an aggressive shout to lightness and purity.

Michael Church

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A success - for all ages

Peter Pan
Barbican

First seen last Christmas, the RSC's *Peter Pan* is a brave - at the time, some thought it crazy - attempt to bury tired and tatty revivals for good and all, reclaim Barrie's fairy play and recreate its magic with all the aid of the company's bank of talent and the resources of the Barbican stage.

It succeeds spectacularly; that is the word. With a few additions to the text showing awareness of the flesh-and-blood friends that unwittingly roused the play from Barrie's creative mind, it becomes a production to satisfy adults and children equally but simultaneously for very different reasons.

From the lovingly detailed domesticity of a cream-painted Edwardian nursery, John Napier's sets take a confident leap into Neverland: a vast, tree-planted mound sewn with velvety moss in myriad colours, an ocean of swirling blue silk, a stoutly seventeenth-century pirate deck with skulls prominent among its carvings. With this stage's unrestricted height,

Moby Dick
Royal Exchange
Manchester

I did not care for the vindictive-ness with which the Royal Exchange announced Patrick McGoochan's withdrawal from this show; but it is true that had he taken part in it, Michael Elliott's production would have stood as a perfect heroic counterpart to the legendary *Brand* which first brought Elliott and McGoochan together in the 1950s.

As it is, Melville's Whaler is under the command of Brian Cox, who brings everything to the role of Captain Ahab apart from the sheer sense of magnitude. Making one of the most long-delayed entrances on record, he is suddenly there - a supernaturally still presence, his dark coat and hat in stark contrast with the crew's costume, apart from the whalebone

Theatre



Katy Beahan and Mark Rylance in *Peter Pan*

the flying effects are breathtaking. Mark Rylance, taking over *Peter Pan* from playing Ariel in *The Tempest*, launches into air "like a creature native and inbred unto that element" that flits about the precipitous terrain as though he really bore a charmed life.

As was noticed last year, it is good to see a really boyish spirit. With his delicate appearance, Mr Rylance can afford to be pretty gruff and arrogant in compensation. He also has a strange quality of unreachableness: it made him a very poignant Ariel and it dooms the efforts of Katy Beahan's passionately mothering Wendy from the start.

Stephen Moore doubles as

the mundane paterfamilias (partnered by Frances Tomelty, who truly does have a sweet indefinable smile) and a sardonically courtly Captain Hook, venomously addressing his rhapsody about the children "in their homes abed" to us out front, up long past our bed-times. Stephen Oliver's score gives him a little minuet with Scottish dotted rhythms; but the most haunting piece, used for Mrs Darling's lullaby and Wendy's dream of her house, and repeated in an infinitely varied orchestration, is a melody he originally intended for the fairies' song at the end of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Quite unobscuring the whole

is Edward Petherbridge's narrator, his accent naturally north of the border, with Barrie's stage directions as well as passages from the *Peter Pan* novel. Drily glaring at Hook's crocodile as its inwards sound the Westminster chimes, he can be immensely funny but his conjuring-up of a parade of Peter's "lost boys" in adult careers from judge to titled swell has its full significance. And John Caird's production, while marvellously busy on occasion, also justifies its unfamiliar text with the moving final sequences in which Peter's anguished unfulfilment becomes disturbingly explicit.

Anthony Masters

Dick takes the ship down to the bottom.

The acting area, rigged to the flies, evokes the Pequod with heavy timber pieces including a huge mast and sail; but the triumph of Laurie Dennett's design comes at the end where the floor covering inflates into the heave and swell of the sea that swallows up Ahab and his men.

There are fine individual performances, particularly from Terence Wilton, who creates a figure of great dignity and warmth from the cannibal queequeg. But the heart of the show is in its seagoing pantomime (movement by Litz Pisk and Sue Leffon): not only on board, but in the hunting forays by open boat with crew members seated on the empty floor rowing towards an invisible prey and chilling your blood through the sheer power of movement.

Irving Wardle

Concert

Bubbling along cheerfully

English
Concert/Pinnock
Queen Elizabeth Hall

This bubbling, cheerfully played programme of "Concerts for Christmas" made me think again about the current vogue for baroque orchestras and the sound of period instruments. It would be difficult to think of two more different textures, interpretative approaches and resultant sounds than that of the airy, quicksilver, enjoyable but somehow superficial Handel Concerto Grosso movement, which Trevor Pinnock's band played as their encore, and the performance of the same movement on Nikolaus Harnoncourt's recent recording of Handel's Op 6. Yet both claim to use period instruments and "authentic" playing styles.

This may mean that we are simply entering a new mature era when old-instrument performances can be as diverse as those on new instruments.

Certainly the sophisticated playing of Pinnock's orchestra supported Dr Christopher Field's letter to *The Times* this week in which he demonstrated how seventeenth and eighteenth century writers spoke of the violin as an eloquent, sweet, tender, powerful, agile instrument.

All those qualities could be heard in Simon Standage's solo playing, particularly in his supremely eloquent slow movements and Telemann's B flat Concerto to Vivaldi's "Winter" from *The Four Seasons*. But was his playing attractive because it sounded reasonably like something to which we are accustomed?

That is the problem which Noel Goodwin's original reference to "the whining strings of baroque scholarship" - disliked by Dr Field - quite pertinently addresses; these instruments should surely sound different. We have to put up with various little fluffs and squeaks even from an ensemble as far

advanced as Pinnock's: the benefit must be that they demonstrate a notion of expressivity, of rhetorical discourse which is unusual. When seveneenth-century theorists wrote of sweetness, they may have had something in mind closer to Mr Goodwin's whining than to Isaac Stern.

No one could confuse the sound of the modern oboe with that of its baroque equivalent David Reichenberg, in a most beautiful account of the slow movement of Albinoni's Op 9 No 2 Concerto, showed how a timbre short of its rich harmonics can be just as affecting as a richly coloured sound.

He had a disturbing tendency to land slightly below the note, but his phrasing was sharp and his sense of rhythm taut. So too was Trevor Pinnock's in his own solo, Handel's concerto for organ in B flat Op 4 No 2.

Nicholas Kenyon

Radio Rock horror

One characteristic of some of the more militant Radio 4 listeners is a very clear notion of what the network ought and ought not to do. No doubt a number of correspondents are even now dipping their pens in caustic to ask what their network thought it was doing putting out not just a musical, but a rock musical as the Christmas week Monday Play. Surely, they will argue, such stuff belongs on Radio 1.

How I would like to be able to assure them that in Nick and Tony Bicat's *Class* (December 19: director, Michael Hefferman) their shrunken criteria had led them to dismiss a musico-dramatic pearl. Unfortunately, and while I shall continue to uphold the enterprise of Radio 4 in making the attempt, the experience of actually listening to this confection from start to finish has left me with hardly a word to say in its defence.

Described as "a rock cartoon" (cartoon implying, surely, brevity, wit, penetration, resonance) *Class* mandered on for an hour and three quarters telling us in empty dialogue, witless lyrics and for the most part deeply unmemorable music of a disenchanted property tycoon who decides to drop out and of his son who

complements Dad's decline by a rocketing rise in the music management business.

With that message of seasonal goodwill delivered, let me turn to jollier things - such as Radio 4's Christmas Turkey (Radio 4, Dec 20, producer Jamie Rix) which at the top of its form nicely enshrined certain recognizable aspects of the spirit of Christmas as it is, in contradistinction to what it is supposed to be. Having recently spent some dire moments listening to groups of small boys singing "Hark, the herald angels" - apparently to as many tunes as boys - I was especially impressed with the station's promotion of the carol-alarm. Convincingly mimics large dog, lion, snake and rabbit: "Boy, did you get the wrong house?"

The approach of the season of gluttony may have given Red Beans and Rice in *Paradise* (Radio 3, Dec 20, producer, David Perry) a certain added edge, although truly Russell Davies's programme, needed no help of any sort. Here he took us on a conducted tour of New Orleans and its hinterland with particular reference to Creole and Cajun cookery. Jazz lyrics marvellously pointed up the subject matter.

One of the week's most curious and absorbing programmes turned up in the Radio 4 late Saturday evening slot. In *Living Memory* (Dec 17: producer, Barbara Crowther), June Knox-Mawer spoke to three people, a child of seven, a man of 40 and a woman of 81, each of whom possesses a clear, detailed picture of what appears to be a previous existence. She also questioned Professor Ian Stevenson, an American psychologist who specializes in this sort of mystery, and most productively, Dr Rupert Sheldrake, a British biochemist who has already caused a bit of a stir with some of his ideas on evolution. Here he was proposing the possibility of a collective memory is able to make contact as if it were a radio receiver. Certainly memory, both mechanism and physical location, is ill-understood. Conceivably there is yet more than that to be explained - a possibility for which Ma Knox-Mawer's most persuasive advocate was the child, Catherine. She was not only articulate way beyond her years, but possessed of perceptions equally precocious and many of them not too easy to account for.

David Wade

Interview

A new sense of freedom

"One loves the idea of sheer physical beauty, of something that has not been experienced before, but without knowing if one can do it," said Gillian Ayres, down from North Wales for her Arts Council retrospective exhibition at the Serpentine Gallery in Hyde Park (until January 8).

She is a shortish, plumpish woman of 53 years, and has about her a refreshing simplicity, almost an innocence, which enables her to admit to so unfashionable and subjective a goal as beauty. The sort of painters she admires are those, such as Titian, Veronese, Rubens, Delacroix, Courbet and Monet, whose brushwork makes even a small segment of their canvases a thing of beauty. She loves the medium of oil paint: the pigment, even the smell.

Abstract painting, which is what she has always done, began to excite her soon after she went from St Paul's to Camberwell Art School. Despite a good deal of recognition at home and abroad in the 1960s, only recently has her work begun to sell. "I'm not used to it," she admits.

It has been a long struggle. She was brought up and spent most of her life in Barnes in west London. Her father ran a factory which made expensive hats for men. Her mother came from Somerset farming stock. After some pleasant years at the Froebel School at Roehampton, where she looked after the goat, made pots and excelled at art and maths, she found St Paul's utterly conventional. "I was taught by Pasmore's sister, who was rather uninspiring - you just drew daffodils, that sort of thing. But it was very good for music, and I got something out of books on people like Monet and van Gogh."

Long determined to paint, she left and became one of three 15-year-olds at Camberwell School of Art. "It was rather bewildering in human terms, as it was full of ex-service people talking about the desert and Burma." The teachers, predominantly of the Euston Road persuasion (low-key colours, emphasis on drawing), did not encourage her proclivity to abstraction, so she left after four years without taking any exams, and headed for Cornwall.

"I had a dreamy idea you could draw and paint, but in fact you don't have the energy to paint if you've been working what was probably a 14-hour day, six days a week." Being a chambermaid was terrible - I was always getting caught to iron dirty sheets. Returning to London after a few months, she ended up working three days a week at the AIA (Artists' International Association)



Gillian Ayres: the abstract excites

Gallery in Lisle Street, off Shaftesbury Avenue. The painter Henry Mundy, whom she later married and eventually divorced, did the other three days. It became a meeting place for painters, writers and Soho Bohemia.

One visitor was Michael Greenwood, an architect doing some modernization at South Hampstead (girls) School, and he commissioned her to paint four huge panels for the school dining room. The workers thought she was going mad as Jackson Pollock-like, she swirled the paint on in a tremendous release of creative energy. The result caused some consternation, but the panels helped shape the psyches of the girls for 13 years, then disappeared, presumed destroyed. Happily, as a result of research for this show, they were found undamaged beneath a layer of wallpaper.

In 1959, two years later, she began what became 22 years of part-time teaching: first under the remarkable Clifford Elish at Bath Academy Heath; then at St Martin's in London, where Anthony Caro and others were then siring a new generation of sculptors in welded steel; and finally as head of painting at Winchester School of Art. Since most British painters

cannot make a living without teaching, she reckons our art students get good value for money. "Now the authorities are trying to make art schools systematic, and they are destroying them," she said. Gillian Ayres believes that she too, benefited from teaching. "In the long run one gets a lot out of it. Besides all the people you mix with, you also get something out of the best third of students - and you can talk seriously about art."

At Winchester she became seriously ill and in 1981 resigned. She had often stayed with her sister in Wales in the 1950s, and decided to settle there with her two sons. "I have liked the west of Britain, mountain landscapes, all my life. At one level I had always had a funny, almost private thing about getting out and being able to think on my own."

She found an old rectory in the Llyn Peninsula near Snowdonia and there, amid her chickens, vegetables and apple trees and surrounded by Welsh speakers from whom she has had nothing but kindness, she has created her often huge new works with a new sense of freedom.

Roger Berthoud



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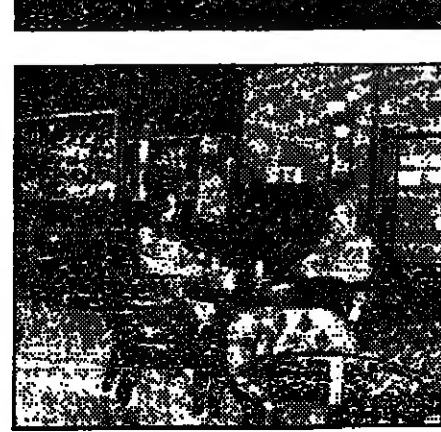
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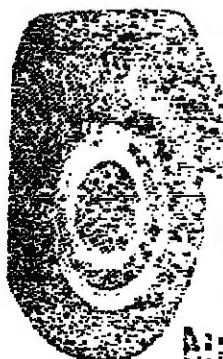
OUTSTANDING QUALITY.

Independent consumer surveys for the last 8 years have shown Datsun to be the most reliable cars on the road.

But even more impressive are the unsolicited testimonials that have flooded in from satisfied Datsun owners.

Many people are so impressed with the uncanny reliability and low running costs of their Datsuns that they put pen to paper to tell us how thrilled they are.

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SUNNY. A range of 2 and 4 door saloons, with 1.3 and 1.5 litre engines, a 1.5 coupe, and 1.3 and 1.5 estate versions. Price range from £4161-£5519.



Stories of 100,000 miles without repair are commonplace.

There's even the case of the Datsun Sunny, used as a driving school car, which clocked up 300,493 miles and was still going strong.

If we were to relate all these remarkable letters to you, this paper would have precious little space

for news.

WHAT THE EXPERTS SAY.

The motoring press have been showering praise on Datsun's quality of construction for years.

In 1971 Motor magazine said "In performance and economy the Sunny is equal to anything in its class and in many aspects of comfort and equipment it stands virtually alone," and more recently they said "the Sunny is the most reliable car with the lowest number of days off the road."

"Datsun reliability is enviable, an added bonus for the Micra" said Autocar.

It must be more than mere coincidence that Datsun dependability is consistently described by motoring experts in such glowing terms.

The connection is no mystery to us.

Nissan pay meticulous attention to detail in every aspect of design and production, and this has benefits that go far beyond reliability.

MICRA. Three 1 litre, 3 door versions; the DX at £3750, the GL at £4250, and the Auto 1.0 GL at £4560.



PATROL. A range of 4x4s. A hard top and estate with 2.8 litre engines, and diesel equivalents with 3.3 litre engines. Price range from £8515-£10,358.



OUTSTANDING FUEL ECONOMY.

In March 1980 Drive said of the Nissan Cherry "Cheapest to run at 5.08p per mile, lowest fuel consumption at 2.73p per mile."

On the issue of economy, owners and motoring writers are in unanimous agreement.

Datsun cars have always been economical to run, but with the launch of the Micra earlier this year we have the most economical car in Europe with an unbeatable 67 mpg at 56 mph.

In the words of Motor "Competitively priced and equipped and the most economical car on sale...best touring consumption ever."

The same magazine summed up the Nissan Sunny in the following words: "Excellent performance and economy in a roomy package—hard to beat."

Even in the normally thirsty luxury class, Nissan cars attract repeated praise for fuel economy.

Of the Datsun Laurel, Autocar have said "On price, mid-range performance, level of equipment and overall fuel consumption the Laurel is hard to beat."

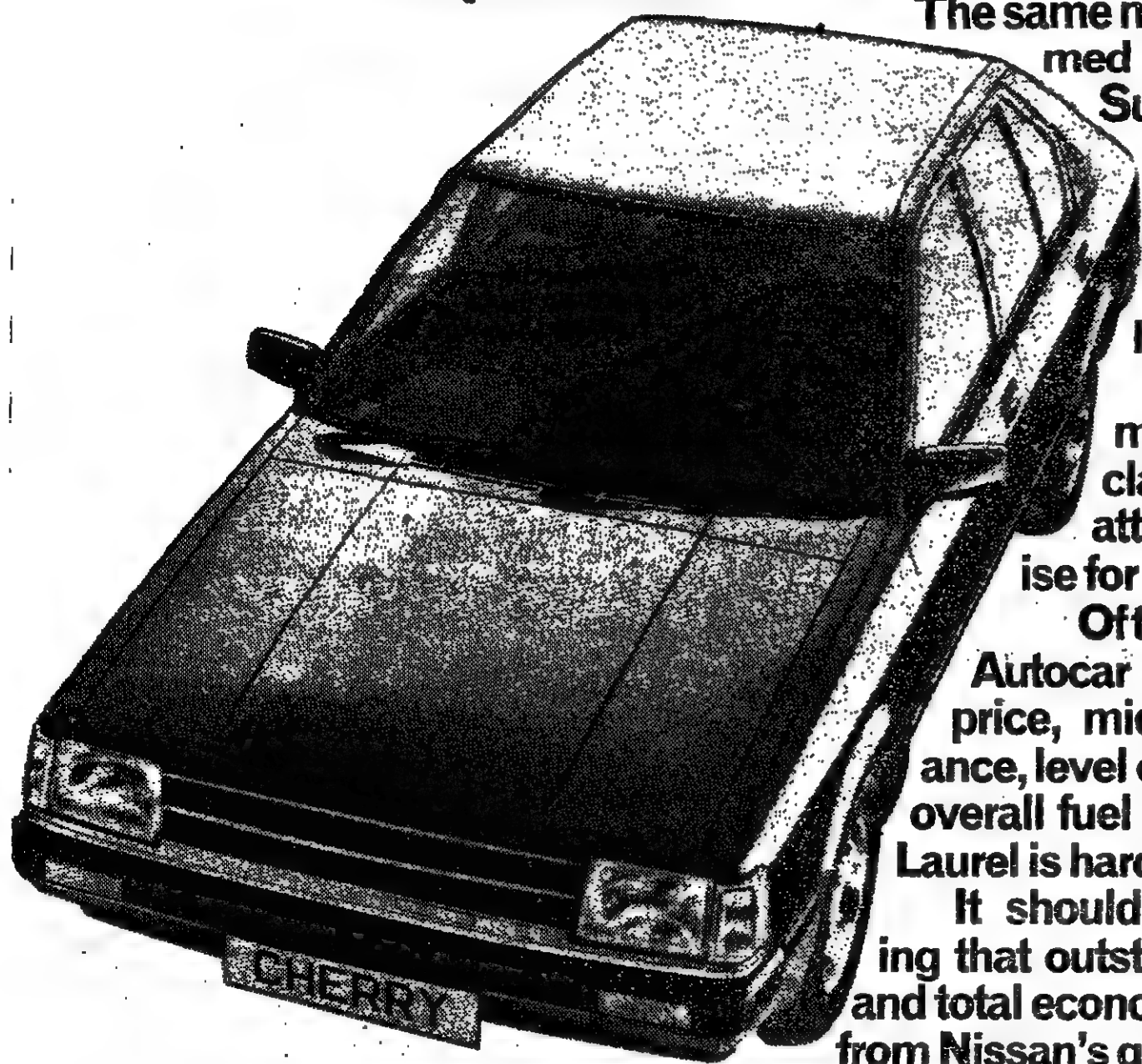
It should not be surprising that outstanding reliability and total economy should result from Nissan's quality.

But you want more from a car, and on creature comforts and level of equipment Nissan cars again attract an enormous and enthusiastic following.

CHERRY TURBO. 1.5 litre engine. 60 mph in 8.0 secs (Motor). Price £6400.



CHERRY. A range of 3 and 5 door hatchbacks with 1.0, 1.2, 1.3 and 1.5 litre engines (including GTI version). Price range from £3851 - £5350.



280ZX. A2+2 Targa at £11,617.



LEVEL OF EQUIPMENT.

It's a well known fact that Datsun cars were the first to provide an extensive list of standard equipment included in the price of the car.

Other car makers are still trying to jump on the bandwagon.

But Datsun have continually improved what was already an exceedingly generous level of

equipment. Which results in our cars continuing as ever, to provide excellent value for money.

A sentiment echoed

by Motor when speaking of the Datsun Bluebird.

They said "Outstandingly well-equipped and offers excellent value."

When the Financial Times turned its attention to the Nissan Stanza, they were equally enthusiastic: "Any European manufacturers who haven't got round to evaluating the Datsun Stanza should buy one straight away.

They will be doing themselves a favour because they will discover just how good a medium size family car can be."

A DIFFERENT ATTITUDE TO QUALITY.

Perhaps what separates Nissan cars from other marques more than anything else is the attitude of the people who design, build and test them.

Nissan engineers do not find it extraordinary to test a car, flat-out, continuously for 100,000 miles.

To them it is all perfectly normal.

They find nothing remarkable about taking a car into the searing heat of the desert and simulating stop-start traffic jam conditions.

To them, good enough just isn't good enough. It is that attitude of constantly seeking to find new ways of further improving the quality of Nissan cars that ultimately means more reliable, more economical, better-styled value for money cars for you.

The attitude is well expressed by a young line worker at a Nissan factory: "I don't want its owner to ever have a problem and think I failed to do my job."

Perhaps it's this commitment from the workforce that has led to such a strong commitment from Datsun owners.

BLUEBIRD, 1.8 litre saloon at £5991 and a 1.8 litre estate at £6395, automatic available.



PRAIRIE, 1 model with a 1.5 litre engine, at £6080.



STANZA. A range of 3, 4 and 5 door cars, with 1.6 and 1.8 litre engines, price range from £5819 - £6695.



NISSAN

SPORTING DIARY

Twickers in a twist

I bear Christmas tidings that should have every Twickenham dihard spluttering into his prepubertal state of determined ladies has just established a national association for women rugby union players. The women's game has existed, mostly at universities, for some years now, but the ladies are extending their range.

Tricia Moore, spokesperson for the organization, is not sure if it can get away with calling itself the Women's Rugby Union (the acronym might be confused with the Welsh). She says: "Our games tend to be more tactical than men's games, with a good deal less gratuitous violence. But it is still a very aggressive game; we play to exactly the same rules as the men. It is played in a good spirit though, about as ladylike as it could be, in the circumstances. We have been told we are about the same standard as a good 14-year-old schoolboy team."

Two's a crowd

Every week we hear more horror stories of Football League clubs agonizing about their dwindling attendances. They sound worthy: the recent titanic clash between the French third division club Olympique Lyonnais and A.J. Auxerre attracted an audience of exactly one. Gate receipts were 20 francs: I hope this unknown football supporter did not begrudge it overmuch. The result was 0-0.

Après le deluge

Ivory Coast footballers can feel justified in being a bit cross. In the final of the Exos Trophy, Togo and Ivory Coast were locked together 1-1 at the end of normal time. Ivory Coast took the lead after three minutes of extra time, but with five minutes to go there was a cloudburst and the referee took the players off. When he tried to restart the match, the Togo players refused, saying the pitch was water-logged. The referee then awarded the match to Ivory Coast, but the competition's organizing committee overruled him, and decided on a "compromise" solution of a full replay.

BARRY FANTONI



"Yes, dear, it means Mummy will be home for Christmas."

Getting it taped

Bellestros, McEnroe, Davis - relax. I have decided not to take up Videotherapy. This is a programme combining self-hypnosis and big names with clever advice which will make me better at just about everything in sport. There are also Videotherapy techniques for giving up smoking and losing weight, and even, apparently, "combating the stress of modern living." However, Seve, John Patrick and Steve can be assured that I would never take advantage of them like this.

Different tack

Horse people are the bitter end, and I should know, because I am one. For it is not the sensible, helpful and unfathomable information on London riding stables that attracted me first in the recently published *Good Ride Guide* but its occasional negative report in unimpaired words. Tales of unscheduled gallops through West End traffic, the horrors of Hampstead and one stable stocked with horses trained to rear and fall down for film work warm any horseperson's natural love of bitchery. One establishment is summed up laconically: "No hacking, no men - no thank you."

Rallying round

Two American table tennis players have set what could well be an unbreakable world record for the game's longest rally. Rick Bowling and Rich Dewitt are the goggle-eyed pair, and it was Rick who missed the first ball - after ten hours and nine minutes.

Geldings gilded

If you are looking for a Christmas present for Daniel Wildenstein or the Aga Khan, you could not do better than give them a copy of Robert Sangster's diary. This is the nation's new publication in racing, and features the horseracing tycoon in all his panoply of splendour.

It is a kind of body-building performance, a choreographed display of all Sangster's equi-financial muscles popping and writhing. The little black book, with its metal corners and gilt-edged pages, tells you everything you ever wanted to know about Sangster, but were too cool to ask his stallions, potential stallions, trainers, interests in Britain, France, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, the United States, Venezuela - Sangster gloriosus. This one will run and run (unlike Golden Fleecer).

Simon Barnes

A seasonal story of Santa Claus in the Deep South

One Christmas

by Truman Capote



First, a brief autobiographical prologue. My mother, who was exceptionally intelligent, was the most beautiful girl in Alabama. Everyone said so, and it was true; and when she was 16 she married a 28-year-old businessman who came from a good New Orleans family. The marriage lasted a year. My mother was too young to be a mother or a wife; she was also too ambitious - she wanted to go to college and to have a career. So she left her husband; and as for what to do with me, she deposited me in the care of her large Alabama family.

Over the years, I seldom saw either of my parents. So far as I was concerned, this was not an unpleasant situation. I was happy where I was. I had many kindly relatives, aunts and uncles, and cousins, particularly one cousin, an elderly, white-haired, slightly crippled woman named Sook. Miss Sook Faulk. I had other friends, but she was by far my best friend.

It was Sook who told me about Santa Claus. His flowing beard, his red suit, his jangling present-filled sled, and I believed her, just as I believed that everything was God's will, or the Lord's, as Sook always called Him. If I stubbed my toe, or fell off a horse, or caught a good-sized fish at the creek - well, good or bad, it was all the Lord's will. And that was what Sook said when she received the frightening news from New Orleans: my father wanted me to travel there to spend Christmas with him.

I cried. I didn't want to go. I'd never left this small, isolated Alabama town surrounded by forests and farms and rivers. Then, too, I was afraid of strangers, and my father was a stranger. I had seen him several times, but the memory was a haze. I had no idea what he was like. But, as Sook said: "It's the Lord's will, and who knows, Buddy, maybe you'll see snow."

Snow! Until I could read myself, Sook read me many stories, and it seemed a lot of snow was in almost all of them. Drifting, dazzling fairytale flakes. It was something I'd dreamed about; something magical and mysterious that I wanted to see and feel and touch. Of course I never had, and neither had Sook.

It was a 400-mile trip, something like that. My first stop was in Mobile. I changed buses there, and rode along forever and forever through swampy lands and along sea-coasts until I arrived in a loud city tinkling with trolley cars and packed with dangerous foreign-looking people.

That was New Orleans. And suddenly, as I stepped off the bus, a man swept me in his arms, squeezed the breath out of me, he was laughing, he was crying - a tall, good-looking man, laughing and crying. He said: "Don't you know me? Don't you know your daddy?"

I was speechless. I didn't say a word until at last, while we were riding along in a taxi, I asked: "What's his name?"

"Our house? It's not far."

"Not the house. The snow."

"What snow?"

"I thought there would be a lot of snow."

He looked at me strangely, but laughed. "There never has been any snow in New Orleans. Not that I heard of. But listen. Hear that thunder? It's sure going to rain!"

That night, when I went to bed, it was still raining. I said my prayers and prayed that I would soon be home with Sook. I didn't know how I could ever go to sleep without Sook to kiss me goodnight. The fact was, I couldn't go to sleep, so I began to wonder what Santa Claus would bring me. I wanted a pearl-handled knife. And a big set of jigsaw puzzles. A cowboy hat with matching lasso. And I wanted a box of crayons.

My father seemed to have everything - a car with a rumble seat, not to mention an old, pink pretty little house in the French Quarter. He also had a half-dozen, I'd say full-dozen, lady friends.

My poor father had no idea how miserable I was. He would say: "Tell the truth. Don't you want to come and live here with me in New Orleans?"

"I can't."

"What do you mean you can't?"

"I miss Sook. I miss Queenie; we have a little rat terrier, a funny little thing. But we love her."

He said: "Don't you love me?"

I said: "Yes." But the truth was, except for Sook and Queenie and a few cousins and a picture of my beautiful mother beside my bed, I had no real idea of what love meant.

I soon found out. The day before Christmas, as we were walking along Canal Street, I stopped dead still, mesmerized by a magical object that I saw in the window of a big toy store. It was a model airplane large enough to sit in and pedal like a bicycle. It was green and had a red propeller. I was convinced that if you pedaled fast enough it would take off and fly!

That night I prayed that Santa Claus would bring me the airplane.

Of course, I had never seen a weighted, jangling, belly-swollen giant flop down a chimney and gaily dispense his largesse under a Christmas tree. My cousin Billy Bob, who was a mean little runt but had a brain like a fist made of iron, said it was a lot of hooey, there was no such creature.

"My foot!" he said. "Anybody would believe there was any Santa Claus would believe a mule was a horse." This quarrel took place in the tiny courthouse square. I said: "There is a Santa Claus because what he does is the Lord's will and whatever is the Lord's will is the truth." And Billy Bob, splitting on the ground, walked away.

My father's house had three floors and seven rooms. It was the kind of house best displayed by lacquered floors and some wicker here, some velvet there. It could have been mistaken for the house of a rich man; rather, it was the place of a man with an appetite for elegance. To a poor (but happy) barefoot boy from Alabama it was a mystery how he managed to satisfy that desire.

But it was no mystery to my mother. Many years later, she visited me in a snobbish New England boarding school when something I said tossed her into a rage; she shouted: "So you don't know how he lives so well? Charters yachts and cruises the Greek Islands? His wives? Think of the whole long string of them. All widows. All rich. Very rich. And all much older than he. Too old for any sane young man to marry. That's why you are his only child. And that's why I'll never have another child - I was too young to have any babies, but he was a beast, he wrecked me, he ruined me."

All the while she talked (and I tried not to listen, because by telling me my birth had destroyed her, she was destroying me), tunes suddenly

ran through my head. They helped me not to hear her, and they reminded me of the strange haunting party my father had given in New Orleans that Christmas Eve.

The patio was filled with candles, and so were the three rooms leading off it. After I had been introduced to the guests, and been made much of, I had been sent upstairs; but from the terrace outside my French-shuttered bedroom door, I could watch all the party, see all the couples dancing. I watched my father waltz a graceful lady around the pool that surrounded the mermaid fountain. She was graceful, and dressed in a wispy silver dress that shimmered in the candlelight; but she was old - at least 10 years older than my father, who was then 35.

Then I saw something that made me blink. My father and his agile partner had danced themselves into a niche shadowed by scarlet spider orchids; and they were embracing, kissing. I was so startled, I was so irate, I ran into my bedroom, jumped into bed and pulled the covers over my head. What would my nice looking young father want with an old woman like that! And why didn't all those people downstairs go home so Santa Claus could come?

Several things occurred that kept me awake the whole night. First, the footfalls, the noise of my father running up and down the stairs, breathing heavily. I had to see what he was up to. So I hid on the balcony among the bougainvilleas. I saw him crawling around under the Christmas tree in the parlour arranging a pyramid of packages. I felt dizzy, for I saw forced me to reconsider everything. If these were presents intended for me, then obviously they had not been ordered by the Lord and delivered by Santa Claus; no, they were gifts bought and wrapped by my father. Which meant that my rotten little cousin Billy Bob and other rotten kids like him weren't lying when they taunted me and told me there was no Santa Claus. The worst thought was: Has Sook known the truth, and lied to me? No, Sook would never lie to me. She believed.

I watched until my father had finished his chores and blown out the few candles that still burned. I waited until I was sure he was in bed and sound asleep. Then I crept downstairs to the parlour.

I sat there, thinking: Now I will have to be the one to tell Sook the truth. An anger, a weird malice was spiralling inside me. It was not directed towards my father, though he turned out to be its victim.

When the dawn came I decided to open the packages. It was Christmas morning. I was awake, so why not? I won't bother to describe what was inside them: just shirts and sweaters and dull stuff like that. The only thing I appreciated was a quite snazzy cap-pistol. Somehow I got the idea it would be fun to walk

my father by firing it. So I did. Bang. Bang. Bang.

He raced out of his room, wild-eyed.

"Buddy - what the hell do you think you're doing?"

Bang. Bang. Bang.

"Stop that!"

I laughed. "Look, Daddy, look at all the wonderful things Santa Claus brought me."

Calm now, he walked into the parlour and hugged me. "You like what Santa Claus brought you?"

I smiled at him. He smiled at me. There was a tender flinching moment, shattered when he said: "Yes. But what are you going to give me, Daddy?" His smile evaporated. His eyes narrowed suspiciously; you could see that he thought I was pulling some kind of stunt. But then he blushed, as though he was ashamed to be thinking what he was thinking. He patted my head, and coughed and said: "Well, I thought I'd wait and let you pick out something you wanted. Is there anything particular you want?"

I reminded him of the airplane we had seen in the toy store on Canal Street. His face sagged. Oh, yes, he remembered the airplane and how expensive it was. Nevertheless, the next day I was sitting in that airplane dreaming I was zooming toward heaven while my father wrote out checks for twenty bags of money.

There had been some argument about sending the plane to Alabama, but I was adamant; I insisted it should go with me on the bus that I was taking at two o'clock that afternoon.

But I wasn't free of New Orleans yet. The problem was a large silver flask of moonshine; maybe it was because of my departure, but anyway my father had been swilling it all day, and on the way to the bus station, he scared me by grabbing my wrist and harshly whispering: "I'm not going to let you go. I can't let you go back to that crazy family in that crazy old house. Just look at what they've done to you. A boy, almost seven, talking about Santa Claus! It's all their fault, all those sour old spinners with their Bibles and their knitting needles, those drunken uncles. Listen to me, Buddy. There is no God! There is no Santa Claus."

He was squeezing my wrist so hard that it ached. "Sometimes, Oh, God, I think your mother and I, both of us, we ought to kill ourselves to have let this happen. . . . Kiss me. Please. Kiss me. Kiss your daddy that you love him." But I couldn't speak. I was terrified I was going to miss my bus. And I was worried about my plane, which was strapped to the top of the taxi. "Say it: I love you." Say it. Please, Buddy. Say it.

Twelve hours later I was home in bed. The room was dark. Sook was sitting beside me, rocking in a rocking chair, a sound as soothing as ocean waves.

She stroked her fingers through my hair, and said: "Of course there is a Santa Claus. It's just that no single somebody could do all he has to do. So the Lord has spread the task among us all. That's why everybody is Santa Claus. I am you. Are you my cousin Billy Bob. Now go to sleep. Count stars. Think of the quietest thing. Like snow."

Stars sparkled, snow whirled inside my head: the last thing I remembered was the peaceful voice of the Lord telling me something must do. And the next day I did it. I went with Sook to the post office and bought a penny postcard. That same postcard exists today. It was found in my father's safety deposit box when he died last year. Here is what I had written: "Hello pop hope you are well I am and I am turning to peddle my plain so fast I will soon be in the sky so keep your eyes open and yes I love you Buddy."

The author was born in New Orleans in 1924 and spent most of his childhood in the South. One Christmas is published by Hamish Hamilton (£6.95).

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Noel Annan

Jobs for life but not too soon

Is academic tenure sacred? Should it continue to be given a contract which guarantees employment for 40 years? Academic staff, even in Cambridge and one or two other institutions, get tenure after only three years' probation and are secure in their job until 65. Now Sir Keith Joseph, the Education Secretary, has advised the Privy Council not to allow any university to amend its statutes unless it adds redundancy along with health, misconduct or scandalous behaviour as a "good cause" for dismissal.

No wonder. When the Government cut university costs, senior academic staff were asked to make early retirement. The compensation paid to those who did reflected the fact that they had been dismissed, they could have sued for breach of contract. So the taxpayer had to provide £100m. The DEN has warned universities to expect those more staff by the 1990s and Sir Keith faces another huge bill.

About half the universities guarantee tenure for everyone. The other half have break clauses in lecturers' contracts, but these clauses seem to be a dead letter. So far as don has been made redundant, and the universities and colleges waiting to change their statutes are now refusing to insert the clause. Sir Keith wants it.

As always, the universities are ready to explain why change is impossible. First, they ask, why? Why should civil servants or the staffs of museums and galleries have tenure and not dons? Next they argue that academic freedom is at stake. Tenure protects those with original minds which often seem subversive of received wisdom in their subjects. In fact, the numbers of subversive or least vigilance of the Association of University Teachers (AUT).

There is another and stronger argument, though it would not impress executives in industry who have been made redundant through no fault of their own. It is this: An army officer is trained in a multitude of skills which enable him to apply successfully on retirement for another job. But a don who studies Egyptology or Topology disqualifies himself from alternative employment.

The universities urge the Government to face realities. When they heard a whisper that the Government was thinking of bringing in a one-line bill to abolish tenure they pointed out that this would apply only to new staff. The sitting tenants are secure. Parliament would hardly pass a bill depriving the members of

a profession of their contractual rights under Common Law.

They judge that university councils and senates will never vote to make redundancy a cause for dismissal.

So, say some vice-chancellors, why not leave it to us? We will soon ensure that only 40 per cent of staff will have tenure and they will enjoy it for no longer than 25 years. But no move to do so has been observed. In the past 15 years the universities have resisted virtually all proposals for saving money voluntarily, whatever party was in power.

The AUT could never get its members out on strike: academic staff know that if they did the Government would be unmoved and the public amused. But when the AUT advises its members to stand on their contractual right to tenure, it is as formidable as the NGA's opposition to the use of modern technology in newspaper production. Both unions are protecting the jobs of their members with this difference - the universities are not over-manned.

Someone who has spent 15 years establishing himself as a scholar of distinction should not be dismissed overnight. Tenure is reasonable and necessary for scholars. But not on the grounds of tenure. The present probationary period is a scandal. No one can judge in two and a half years whether a young scholar will mature into a good teacher who is likely to produce interesting research for many years or become renowned for learning. No American university grants tenure as frivolously as we do. No one should get tenure until he is at least 35. The retiring age should be fixed at 60, the university (not the scholar) having the right to reemploy a scholar for no longer than five years. Such conditions would make universities far more flexible and able to respond to new developments.

It would be reasonable for the Government to invite universities to amend their statutes on these lines and it should require them to do so not later than the end of next year. If they did not comply, the Government should introduce a striking redundancy good cause for dismissal of any new member of academic staff at any age. If that happened, a safeguard which scholars need would be lost. But it would not be the first time that universities would have brought a bad policy upon themselves. Last time they did so was over the fees for overseas students.

Lord Annan was vice-chancellor of London University, 1978-81.

David Cohen

No stocking, just the usual dilemma

Good Jews don't have Christmas trees. When I was little, my mother's compromise was to have a small Christmas tree. She placed it well away from the windows that gave out on to the street so that the rabbi passed he would not glimpse the offending tree.

My mother wanted a Christmas tree for two reasons. She did not like to advertise the fact that we were different and there was also the question of prudence. Ever since her youth in Romania, she had been worried by rumours that God might actually be a goy rather than a Jewish patriarch so she occasionally popped into the local Catholic church to light candles. That couldn't be too bad. After all, as good Jews we lit candles on Friday. Candles had to be extinguished.

Christmas provoked all kinds of gentle unease among Jews, unease because you don't want to mark yourself out as being that different and unease because it requires toughness not to succumb to Christmas fever. As it happens, December sees the Jewish festival of Chanukkah, and even "bad" Jews like me baffle when friends say, without the least malice, that it's the "Jewish Christmas" presents because concept to make the mind boggle.

In fact, Chanukkah celebrates the miracle of the oil when the Jews reentered the Temple. There was enough oil for only one day, but it lasted eight days. On each evening of the eight days of Chanukkah, one lights a new candle on the menorah, the eight-branched candelabrum. Some Jews give their children small presents every evening of the festival. Some orthodox Jews have now reverted to a tradition of giving "Chanukkah gelt", Yiddish for money. That way, there can be no confusion with Christmas presents.

For less orthodox Jews, the fact that Christmas itself has become less and less of a religious festival creates problems. Do you not give your children Christmas presents because it isn't a Jewish festival or do you fudge and give them presents that you don't call Christmas presents?

Many fudge, but some "Christian" traditions are much harder to adopt. While I found plenty of Jews who admitted, guiltily, that they really couldn't deprive their children of the presents all other children got, I didn't find any who put out Christmas stockings.

When I was little, my ecumenical mother managed to fudge things well. In Eastern Europe, they had also celebrated the Feast of St Nicholas as an occasion for giving presents. That often falls in December too. So, in good years, I got

Chanukkah presents, St Nicholas presents and Christmas presents, and if the dates fell right, it wasn't too clear which festival the presents were for.

For really orthodox Jews, especially the Hassids with their long frock coats, there is none of this domestic unease and confusion. Christmas exists to be ignored. Or not quite. According to Jewish tradition, studying the Torah, the first five books of the Bible, adds to the radiance and life energy of the world. It is a sublimely good thing to do.

But there is a tradition that one does not study the Torah on Christmas Eve. The logic is obvious. If one studies the Torah on Christmas Eve, one is studying the Torah on the day of the Jews' persecution for the Jews but being edged out from their position as the main monotheistic religion. On the day when Christians celebrate that why should Jews add to the radiance and energy of the world? A friend once showed me a picture of two rabbis zealously playing chess on Christmas Eve in order not to study the Torah.

I have not studied the Torah since my bar mitzvah but I understand that Chanukkah is a time when Jews are supposed to study the Torah. The only time I went to midnight mass I felt uneasy. I was going to get married to a Catholic who, before feminism made her faith impossible, took rituals seriously. She was going with her family to their local church in New Jersey. Not to go would have meant an explanation, standing out, didn't expect to enjoy the service but I was curious and, then, quite taken aback when I found myself bristling at the carols I liked to hear muzakized in supermarket centres. Among the incense and crucifixes in the church, they made me feel surprisingly bad.

Even today, and even in tolerant countries like Britain, Jews feel under pressure not to mention such anxieties. I have no idea how many very pious Jews - if any at all - will refrain from studying the Torah. And, certainly, official Jewish bodies prefer to stress the fact that, on Christmas Day, Jews can do many things for Christians.

In many jobs, Jews volunteer to work Christmas Day; hospitals tend to be full of Jewish voluntary workers. In Manchester the organizer of the Hassidic Lubavitch Foundation, Mr Vogel, who cuts a Falstaffian figure and speaks Yiddish in a thick Manchester accent, told me that, after all, Christmas was "their festival" and it was the duty of a good Jew to be friendly and replace Christians at work so that they could celebrate their big day.

And Jews aren't unique. I have Indian friends who are bewildered by Christmas. An Irish psychiatrist explained to me how alien he felt the day of the royal wedding. That was a celebration for the British and he was outside it. So the ambivalence of Jews towards Christmas is, perhaps, not that different from the experience of other people at other times. Happy Yiddish Christmas!

Correction

In early editions yesterday the word "British" was printed in place of "Irish" in the following passage of Dr Garret Fitzgerald's article: "A different and somewhat contrasting error which has encouraged the IRA in particular, and which has been particularly resented by Irish politicians, has been the series of direct and indirect contacts with the IRA and Sinn Fein on the part of past Secretaries of State."



A CHILD FOR OUR TIMES

It was an unusual birth announcement, not the kind we are familiar with in the personal column of this newspaper, for instance. "Glory to God in the highest, peace on earth, and goodwill to all men." Indeed, the shepherds may have wondered what relevance it had to all to babies and the delivery thereof. But they did not know it was Christmas Day, when strange things always happen. It is the day when the world reverses its usual values, when strangers smile in the street, when prisoners receive little privileges at the taxpayers' expense, when there is universal care for any who are lonely, poor, or afraid, and when children are especially treasured.

It has become fashionable to take our enjoyment of Christmas with a little cynicism, to regard the omnipresent benevolence of the Day as superficial sentimentality and the prior extravagance as rampant materialism, but that is bound to be how the spirit of Non-Christmas would mock the spirit of Christmas. Non-Christmas would reply to the angels: "How unrealistic!" There was no more goodwill in first century Palestine, no more peace, than in our own world; indeed the baby born that day had to be smuggled out of the country to save its life, before long. But the angelic message is our hope, our vision of a better and kinder life, and the instinct to recall it every year, to live one day as if it were true, is the token of how desperately we need that hope.

It is difficult to escape the conclusion that had the angels attached their message to any other event at all, we would long since have forgotten it. The genius of the Christmas story, however, is that it centred upon the birth of a child, an experience so universal, and so universally wonderful, that none is excluded from it. The new born baby is innocence itself, it commands no armies, levies no taxes, knows nothing of fame, wealth, or cleverness, crime, or virtue. At the crib-side all men and women are equal, all humbled by the recollection of their own origins. In an age a little jaded by the wranglings of the doctrinal schoolmen, which wants its religion to be more of the heart than of the head, a new born baby is the ideal religious symbol. It demands no difficult intellectual assent. It demands only that we be moved.

To deny the meaning of Christmas is to deny all that, rather than to deny the truth of some theological proposition of the traditional Christmas faith. Secularism, as we have come to experience it, is about philosophical scepticism when faced with the claims of religious dogma, and in that sense many a secular Christmas will be celebrated in Britain this year. But dogma apart, it is not secular at all; each in his own religious way experiences Christmas as the day the rules of the world are suspended, homages paid to other values, inarticulate hope is refreshed. Those who cannot

enter into its spirit are to be pitied indeed, for they are confessing their total captivity to worldliness, and denying mankind's inherent spirituality. They may well mock, may well mutter "Humbly" with Scrooge, but the lesson of that famous tale is that Christmas is not some ridiculous fantasy when society takes leave of its senses; it is how things ought to be, a taste of a different reality. The child's desire for "Christmas every day" is not absurd; it should be the goal of all human effort. The one sin is to give up on that effort, to abandon the world to its normal nastiness, as a hopeless mess.

There was more meaning even than that to the original Christmas. By the end of that first day, there was still no obvious connexion between the infant in the stable and the proclamation by the angels. Merely by being born, Jesus did not achieve what they had promised. Merely by celebrating Christmas once more, we do not create a permanent state of peace and goodwill. Jesus's life was only beginning to reveal to mankind an option whose shape was not yet plain, just as Christmas annually keeps alive that option, but without fulfilling it. The story goes on from his birth: there was also a death, no less awesome, no less central to the meaning of the thing. For there to be Christmas every day, there has to be an Easter in every life, and the ultimate rejection of Christmas is to refuse to contemplate that price.

NO ONE TAKES THE RAP

Edis, Court, London, January 14, 1983: six o'clock in the evening. The scene is still vividly remembered. A yellow Mini is stationary in a rush-hour traffic jam. It is approached by a man in a blue anorak with a revolver in his hand. There are shots. Two other armed men join the fray. The driver, five bullets in his body and beaten about the head with a revolver to within an inch of his life, lies half in half out of the car. The men with guns are policemen. Their victim is the wrong man, no firearm in his possession or his car.

The policemen were exposed to danger in pursuit of a criminal who had escaped from custody. He had shot and wounded a policeman when previously arrested. The policemen were trailing a girl with whom the criminal was keeping company. One of her companions in the car was thought to bear a resemblance to the criminal. When the car was caught in the traffic one of the policemen from a following vehicle was sent forward to investigate.

That shooting in a crowded thoroughfare and the fearful and almost fatal mistake of identity deeply shocked the public. Had the criminality of modern urban society really come to this? Was it gun law in the guise of law enforcement?

Two of the three policemen who had used their weapons were charged with attempted murder and wounding with intent to cause grievous bodily harm. Their defence to all charges was that of self-defence, the use of a degree of force that was necessary in the extremity if they were to protect their own lives. They were acquitted.

Though the acquittal was not to be questioned, there was lay concern at the judge's exposition of the law in the course of his summing up. His doctrine of the

pre-emptive strike in self-defence appeared to confer an alarming licence on armed policemen to use their guns, not to mention the wider application of the doctrine beyond the police force (for in these matters the rights of the policeman are the rights of the citizen).

Cleared of criminal charges, the three detective constables who had fired at the driver of the Mini remained exposed to possible disciplinary charges. A disciplinary investigation was duly carried out by the Metropolitan Police and it was concluded that charges should not be preferred, either because of insufficient evidence or because the charges would be of a kind precluded by the Police Act.

The rule of double jeopardy, the rule that no one shall stand trial twice on the same charge, applies to the police disciplinary code when criminal charges have already been preferred. It is the rule, quite rightly, that a police officer who has been brought before the courts on a criminal charge should not, whether acquitted or convicted, thereafter be charged with a disciplinary offence which is in substance the same. The criminal trial had taken care of assault and the use of excessive force. Those issues, which were the main issues, could not be retried in the context of disciplinary proceedings.

The criminal trial had however brought to light several prima-facie breaches of police standing orders or instances of disobedience. In particular, the first detective constable to approach the Mini had been sent forward to make an identification of the suspected man, not to make an arrest. There was evidence that in drawing his gun when he did he was in contravention of police regulations. There was also evidence that he

shot at - he certainly hit - the tyres of the car, also contrary to instructions; and evidence that he failed - though he may have tried - to give an audible warning shout, as required.

These were apparent breaches of discipline quite distinct from the burden of the earlier criminal charges. Yet the Police Complaints Board agreed with the two senior officers of the Metropolitan Police that they should not be made the subject of disciplinary charges. Their reasoning, especially in the case of the allegedly premature drawing of the revolver (that the matter had been gone into at the trial in relation to self-defence), is hard to accept. The breaches of the rules, if that is what they were, may in themselves have been minor, but they contributed to a ghastly misadventure. It is surprising that it has not been thought proper to make them the subject of a disciplinary hearing.

The upshot is that no one high or low takes the rap for a bungled operation of almost fatal consequence which gave the public of London cause for alarm that the Chicago of their imagination had been brought to the streets of their city. No individual responsibility has been fixed, except what is implied by the permanent removal of those three detective constables from the roll of police officers authorized to carry guns.

It is more important that the right lessons should be learned from an incident of this kind than that the right people should be blamed. And the Metropolitan Police and Home Office are evidently seeking to profit from those lessons, especially as they affect selection and training of for eligibility to carry firearms. But it is not unimportant either that responsibility is fixed and borne when human endeavour goes so badly wrong.

Orthopaedic needs

From Dr D. J. Stoker and others
Sir, The recent decision of the Bloodsury Health Authority not to renew the lease of the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital building in Great Portland Street symbolizes the culmination of years of neglect by the DHSS, which has managed to escape its obligation to provide the services needed by a national orthopaedic centre.

We have accepted the need for an orderly transfer of in-patient services to the Middlesex Hospital in 1987. This plan allows for 50 orthopaedic beds with two operating theatres of the same floor, thereby preserving a recognisable identity for the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital within that hospital.

Bloodsury HA has, against medical advice, decided to transfer only 44 orthopaedic beds to the Middlesex Hospital in 1984; such beds are located on two floors and the plan will prevent their organization as a coherent unit.

The in-patient facilities which cannot be accommodated at the Middlesex Hospital are supposed to be transferred to the larger branch of the RNOH at Stanmore. There, the already inadequate provision of operating theatres will not be solved by the installation of one extra modular theatre.

now it has been in the van in advances in treatment, particularly in crippling disorders of childhood, biomedical engineering leading to joint replacement in the elderly and infirm, and limb-saving surgery in the treatment of bone tumours.

In the interest of patients the Great Portland Street site should continue to be occupied by the hospital until the permanent move can take place in 1987. The DHSS has undertaken to finance the final transfer; we believe that payment of the extension of the lease constitutes a part of such a transfer.

Yours faithfully,
D. J. STOKER (Chairman), Medical Staff Committee, Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital
H. B. KEMP (Deputy Chairman), E. L. TRICKEY (Dean), Institute of Orthopaedics, 234 Great Portland Street, W1.
December 20.

Too lenient?

From Mr Inigo Bing
Sir, In the wake of criticism about sentencing the Prime Minister has promised legislation to permit sentences alleged to be too lenient to be referred to the Court of Appeal. Referred by whom?

It ought not to be the prosecution, whose only function is to present the facts on behalf of the Crown, nor to argue for a particular sentence. Nor, logically, should it be the Attorney General. While the Attorney may at

present refer certain cases for a determination of criminal law, the sentence depends essentially on the facts and circumstances of each individual case. On what basis would one sentence be too lenient when another was not?

Moreover if a sentence is perceived to be too lenient this can only be because other sentences for the same crime were more severe. If the more severe sentences are in fact imposed (in the absence of special factors) it is difficult to see what role the Court of Appeal might have for theoretical referrals.

It is the experience of those in practice that the best person to decide the right sentence is the trial judge who hears all the facts and the mitigating circumstances advanced by the accused. As these are never precisely the same sentences obviously and rightly vary from case to case.

At present the judge's decision is only overturned if he has erred in principle or his sentence is so manifestly excessive that in either instance the accused has suffered an injustice.

These sound principles should not be upset by those with a passing, and often prurient, interest in the administration of justice. For these reasons the sooner the Government abandons its proposed legislation the better.

Yours sincerely,
INIGO BING,
2 Pump Court,
Temple, EC4,
December 21.

Political priority for Ireland

From Lord Hylton

Sir, The duration of politically inspired violence in Ireland, which spills over into Britain, makes it clear that there is no purely security or military solution for the underlying problems. As recent correspondents (November 14, December 20, etc) have pointed out, we need a political strategy as well as effective security. We must seek more than just the good working relationships between the London and Dublin governments mentioned in the Tory Manifesto of May 1983.

We should strive towards agreement between the two governments on medium-term aims. Now is the time, since both governments enjoy good majorities and every chance of remaining in office. In addition there is not only good will but also funds available through the EEC, in the wake of Mr N. J. Haughey's report to the European Parliament. An agreement between London and Dublin, supported by the EEC, would, I suggest, be able to call on practical backing from the USA.

I hope British people everywhere will recognize that the Irish question was not solved in 1920 or 1922. It has remained outstanding to this day, imposing heavy burdens on Britain and disproportionately greater ones on the Irish Republic. That is why agreement between the two legitimate authorities is so important.

To achieve agreement will require some willingness to sacrifice traditional political tenets and much higher political priority in Britain. Both are essential, for the problems will not go away.

Yours faithfully,
HYLTON
House of Lords,
December 21.

Test of closed shop

From Mr John Coleman

Sir, I have an inbuilt dislike of the closed shop anywhere and law-changing rather than law-breaking, seems to me to be the essentially British way of doing things.

Notwithstanding that, I think we have to remember that democracy is based on majority decision-making and not on the absolute sacredness of individual freedom. We all accept a tension between the desires of the individual and the needs of society. It seems to me that the closed shop situation should be allowed where the great majority of the workers in a firm genuinely desire it, and not allowed where there is not a strong or even overwhelming majority for it.

I think we pay due regard to individual freedom by not going against it until the majority is very strong.

I believe that if we are to avoid a lot of trouble arising from the Government's recent legislation in this field it is very important to define the circumstances in which the closed shop question can arise.

What I would not like to see is pressure from outside a firm being used to pressure a majority into favouring a closed shop. But allowing it when there is a strong majority desire for it within the firm is probably the essentially British kind of compromise.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN COLEMAN,
The Nook,
Hook Village,
Warash,
Nr Southampton,
Hampshire,
December 15.

Eleanor statuary

From Mrs Beryl Bundy

Sir, Dr Kaha suggests (December 12) that the statues on the Queen Eleanor crosses should be preserved in a museum and replicas placed on the crosses.

The cross at Geddington is, I consider, the most beautiful of the three, and to rob it of the original statues of the queen would be desecration. As the cross stands in the heart of the village, near to the church and the site of the king's palace, it is a piece of visible history, while in a museum the statues would be, very likely, of faint interest to the people who strolled by.

To the people of Geddington Queen Eleanor is not a remote historical figure, but has been familiar through the centuries to generations of villagers, and the cross should be left intact on the spot where it was erected almost 700 years ago.

Yours faithfully,
BERYL BUNDY,
Maple House,
Geddington,
Northamptonshire,
December 13.

Aims of Sandinismo

From the Nicaraguan Ambassador

Sir, I write in reply to Sir Alfred Sherman's letter of December 12. The support for Contadora is a rejection that the crisis in Central America is an East-West conflict. Support comes from all corners of the world - the EEC Stuttgart meeting in June, non-aligned countries, the recent Buenos Aires summit and the United Nations.

What is happening in Central America would have happened whether Cuba and the Soviet Union had existed or not; it is precisely due to United States interference in Central American affairs. The historical record speaks for itself.

The Popular Sandinista Revolution is neither Marxist-Leninist nor a one-party dictatorship. At long last we Nicaraguans have our own national ideology and identity: Sandinismo. There are in Nicaragua

Understanding attitude to charity

From the Director of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations

Sir, Your leading article, "Charitable giving and taking" (December 17), reveals a certain lack of understanding of the work of many voluntary organisations and their relationships with local authorities and central government.

Yes, the voluntary sector has grown considerably. It encompasses not only many invaluable volunteers, whom you describe in a somewhat patronising manner, but also an increasing number of large and small voluntary organisations many of whom have paid staff.

Yes, government financing of voluntary organisations has grown, but that pattern began several years before the present Government took office.

The most significant increases are as a result of particular programmes where government has sought and paid for the services of voluntary organisations. For example, the programme of investment in housing associations that followed the 1974 Housing Act, the Manpower Services Commission's programmes to provide training and relieve unemployment and the urban programme expanded after the inner-city riots of 1981.

Ministers typically take an active interest in these and other activities of voluntary organisations, and voluntary bodies are under obli-

gations, which they fulfil, to account to departments and other arms of government from which they receive funds.

Your reference to the creation of "a stage army of fully unionised and militant 'volunteers' catering to the fashionable whims of sex and race" is, I suppose, a reference to a small minority of the projects funded by the Greater London Council. It will be resented by many voluntary organisations, especially those that have responded positively to involve black and other ethnic minorities in inner city areas as a part of the urban programme.

The growth of local and central government funding for voluntary organisations has encouraged voluntary effort where it was previously lacking and hence removed the element of charity.

This is not to suggest that the voluntary sector should, or could, substitute for the statutory services. In this country we have taken strides towards a pluralist welfare society that is learning to make the most of a working partnership between paid and unpaid workers, between public and private money and between voluntary organisations and statutory agencies.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS HINTON, Director,
National Council for Voluntary
Organisations,
25 Bedford Square, WC1,
December 19.

Stronger role for BA

From the Chairman of British Airways

Sir, In his article of December 14, Kenneth Fleet reflected upon two important issues concerning British Airways - the "dominance of international routes and the shape of the balance sheet".

The fact is that British Airways' share of total international scheduled take-offs and landings at Heathrow is about 37 per cent and of total international passengers at Heathrow about 41 per cent: a significant presence, but I think you will agree, hardly a dominating position.

As to the shape of the balance sheet, it should be understood that the £24m of borrowings have been loaned to us by commercial banks and are only guaranteed by the Government. They are not in any way loans from the Government using taxpayers' money. British Airways have made payments of interest and repayments of capital on their due dates from British Airways' own cash resources. The Government guarantees have never therefore been called at any time,

nor are they expected to be called in the future.

It is our task as managers of the airline to seek to improve the performance and profitability of British Airways in the interests of our passengers, employees and shareholders, be they government or private institutions and investors. Our record speaks for itself and the nation has once again a "flag carrier" of which it can be increasingly proud. It is neither our function, nor our intention, to dismember British Airways by selling off valuable commercial assets.

If Britain is to compete effectively with the intense international competition which exists in the airline industry, it is essential that British Airways remain strong and efficient. Any diminution of the role of British Airways would inevitably be of at least as much advantage to foreign competitors as the independent British operations and would not be in the nation's long-term interest.

Yours faithfully,
KING, Chairman,
British Airways,
Cleveland House,
St James's Square, SW1.

Buildings of beauty

From Mr J. H. Morley

Sir, I was intrigued to read (feature, December 17) that Sir John Summerson "despised" the Granada Cinema at Tooting.

In 1935 he seems to have despised it less than he despised the Royal Pavilion at Brighton, for he expressed the opinion, in his book on John Nash, published in 1935, that the Pavilion was "a curiosity which rouses only a vague, transient wonder in the visitor."

"Its ornaments are scarcely more extravagant than the roundabouts at Hampstead, which they closely resemble, for singularity of form it has long ago been surpassed by the Crystal Palace and the White City; and its richness of colour compares unfavourably with the Granada Cinema at Tooting."

That same year, 1935, was the year when powerful local voices were raised urging demolition of the Royal Pavilion; it was also the year when Sir Osbert Sitwell asked: "What other buildings exist in England, or, as for that, in Europe, to compare with it in individuality and exotic beauty?"

Fortunately, more people agreed with Sir Osbert than with Sir John. And by 1980 Sir John himself, in his

revision of his Nash book, could designate the building "a felicitous materialisation of the careless, humorous, audacious genius of its architect." He omitted his former comments.

So Sir John's opinion has changed! Perhaps 45 years hence his opinion of Battersea power station, etc., will change. But let us hope that, during the interval, nobody listens to him.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN MORLEY, Director,
The Royal Pavilion,
Borough of Brighton, Sussex.

Glue sniffers

From Mrs Lena Joy

Sir, As a relatively new arrival in this country may I ask what the ordinary people in the street actually can/should do when coming across a couple of 10-11-year-old glue sniffers?

Do we, by the hundreds, just avert our heads discreetly, "minding our own business", as was the case one sunny Sunday lunchtime a few weeks ago along the Bayswater Road and exotic beauty?

Yours faithfully,
LENA JOY,
7 Giles House,
158 Westbourne Grove, W11.

Control of Namibia

From Mr H. Maclear Bate

Sir, May I refer to your important article, "The Namibian pressure-point" (December 10). I believe you have correctly stated the position when you say, "...the South Africans do not wish for a settlement."

With respect, I would remind the readers of *The Times* that South African forces captured the territory in a "Blitzkrieg" in World War I - forces headed by the Prime Minister of the time, General Louis Botha. The territory was mandated to the then Union of South Africa.

Since that time South Africa has invested multimillions of pounds in the development of mineral resources, extensions of railways, roads, educational facilities and so on. If South-West Africa (Namibia) were to fall under a black government controlled by the Communists

backed Swapo, as it would be, the republic would have yet another hostile neighbour on its western flank.

Collapse of the economy, the rule of law, would disappear overnight and the state of the tribes would deteriorate disastrously. I submit that these are circumstances which demand that South Africa remains in complete control of the territory.

It is not without good reason that the South African Government appointed one of its clearest Foreign Affairs officers to the post of Ambassador to Washington, Dr Bevanbrotter G. Fourie, formerly Permanent Secretary and Ambassador at the UN, thus maintaining continuity in respect of the South-West Africa saga.

I am, Sir, yours respectfully,
H. MACLEAR BATE,
The Talette,
Sticklepath,
Okehampton, Devon.

Administration is passing arms to El Salvador.

2. An end to all military support and the use of any territory for the launching of aggression against any government in the area, and

3. A commitment to respect self-determination and non-interference in internal affairs.

At the September meeting of Contadora Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras and Costa Rica, under pressure from the Reagan Administration, dragged their feet "so that Mr Reagan can take matters into his own hands".

The case is, while Contadora is working for peace, the Reagan Administration is building up task forces in Central America and invading nations in the area.

Yours sincerely,
FRANCISCO d'ESCOTO,
Ambassador,
Embassy of Nicaragua,
8 Gloucester Road, SW7,
December 14.

Accountability in the here and now

From the Bishop of Lincoln

Sir, Ronald Butt (feature, December 22) quotes Bede's tale of the sparrow flying out of the dark into the lighted hall and out again into the night. Man's life, says the tale, is like that brief moment. The tale, writes Butt, "is a reminder that Christianity has always been principally about first and last things... To-day, however, it is the things between, here and now, that are dominant in the teaching of Christian priests and ministers."

He forgets another tale, from St John. "Jesus... knowing that he was come from God, and went to God... took a towel... and began to wash the disciples' feet... after... he said unto them... I have given you an example that you should do as I have done to you."

If Christian ministers are concerned about the "here and now" it is because they have a good example. And Jesus's example was exactly because he came from God and went to God. Our origins and our destiny in God inevitably imply a certain way of living, in between "here and now" - Jesus's way.

You cannot divide time and eternity, as Ronald Butt seems to require. Jesus showed us not only what God is like, but also, in practical terms of loving service and social concern, what man can be like, because he is God's child.

It is not intellectually honest, and thereby not morally honest, for a late twentieth-century person to suggest that eternity is a Somewhere Else inhabited by a Someone Else, to which and to whom it is a Christian minister's task to direct the common gaze, at the expense of the common ground of daily life.

We have to seek for eternity within the "here and now", i.e. discern and perceive the deeper moral and spiritual significance of temporal and secular concerns and live for that. "...to apprehend the point of intersection of the timeless with time, is an occupation for the saint." What, after all, was the Cross about?

The current right-wing establishment finds this idea hard to bear. It raises such critical moral questions about some of its policies. "Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's and unto God the things that are God's."

That is not a separation of Church and state. It is a combination of Church and state. The "and" means what it says. We have to take both seriously and together because Here and Now we are accountable.

Yours sincerely,
SIMON LINCOLN,
Bishop's House,
Eastgate,
Lincoln,
December 23.

Drug smuggling

From Lord Harris of Greenwich

Sir, The Home Secretary is right to warn the country of an alarming upsurge in the abuse of dangerous drugs (report, December 15). As Chairman of the Parole Board I became increasingly disturbed by evidence that sophisticated criminals had become involved with the importation of substantial quantities of heroin and cocaine.

The trade is expanding at a rapid rate. The Treasury informed me recently that seizures of heroin and cocaine by the Customs and Excise had risen from 61kg in the first 10 months of 1979 to 302kg in the same period this year, an increase of over 300 per cent.

In the circumstances it seems extraordinary that the Government has reduced the uniform strength of the Customs and Excise, our first line of defence against drug smugglers. Since coming into office it has cut the staff by 900 officers, a reduction of 20 per cent.

Now more drug smugglers walk through the green channels at Heathrow and Gatwick without being challenged, because of these reductions in staff?

Mr Britton's warning of the extent of our drugs problem deserves to be taken seriously; not least by his colleague, the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

HARRIS OF GREENWICH,
House of Lords,
December 19.

Peace in our time

From Mr M. M. Charlish

Sir, Of the conflicts Mr Graham Greene cites (December 17) the American war in Vietnam was a continuation of the French war in Vietnam. In Malaya, Kenya, Angola, Nigeria, Ethiopia were civil wars/insurrections where the nuclear deterrent was not in possession by either faction, and indeed their mention helps to fortify Mr Heseltine's observation.

As for relative peace (a Humpty-Dumpty expression, surely) between 1918 and 1939, the following matches were played: Greece v Turkey; Italy v Ethiopia; Japan v Manchuria; Japan v China, international games, not local Derbys.

Yours faithfully,
M. McEWAN CHARLISH,
132 Park Lane,
Carshalton,
Surrey,
December 19.

Upstairs, downstairs

From Mr David Griffiths

Sir, Who says there's no integration between London's bus and Underground services?

On leaving a crowded Victoria Line tube at King's Cross this morning I heard the customary shout from the guard: "Move right down inside the cars." He then added with an afterthought: "There's plenty of room on top."

Yours faithfully,
DAVID GRIFFITHS,
United Oxford & Cambridge University Club,
1 Pall Mall SW1.

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Christmas television and radio

SATURDAY DECEMBER 24 1983

FOUR-PAGE PULL-OUT GUIDE TO YOUR HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

FILMS ON TV Edited by Peter Waymark

TODAY

BBC1

A CONNECTICUT YANKEE IN KING ARTHUR'S COURT (1949) ●
10.50am-12.30pm
Likable musical-comedy version of Mark Twain's story of the handyman who falls from his horse and finds himself transported back to sixth-century Camelot. Bing Crosby plays him and sings "Bury My Heart at the Feet of Jesus". The film also includes William Bendix and Sir Cedric Hardwicke.

THE MAGIC OF LASSIE (1978) ●
2.30-4.10pm
After a long break the famous collie returns to the cinema; and the same can be said for Alice Faye, making a cameo appearance as a waitress. There is also James Stewart and Mickey Rooney and a musical score by the Mary Poppins team.

FLASH GORDON (1980) ●●
7.10-8.55pm
Lively, funny and spectacular re-birth of Alex Raymond's comic-strip hero (Sam Jones), making a perilous rocket flight to Mongo in the company of Dale Arden (Melody Anderson) and the scientist Dr Zarkov (Topol) to defeat the dastardly Emperor Ming (Max von Sydow).

BBC2

SCROOGE (1951) ●●
1.05-2.30pm
One of Alastair Sim's most delicious screen performances as the miserly Ebenezer with strong support from a distinguished band of British character actors including Michael Hordern (as Jacob Marley), Mervyn Johns (Bob Cratchit), Kathleen Harrison, Jack Warner and Hermione Baddeley.

THAT TOUCH OF MINK (1982) ●
3.25-5pm
The BBC continues its eighteenth birthday tribute to Cary Grant with this plush comedy of the sexes in which he plays a bachelor millionaire in pursuit of virgin secretary Doris Day. The jokes and the outcome are fairly predictable but Grant's polished playing is a joy.

TO CATCH A THIEF (1955) ●
10.45-12.35am
Cary Grant again, as the jewel thief trying to live down his past on the French Riviera in company with Grace Kelly. Lightweight comedy thriller directed by Alfred Hitchcock as a way of re-charging his batteries for more testing assignments.

ITV

JASON AND THE ARGONAUTS (1963) ●
2.30-4.25pm
Todd Armstrong plays Jason, in search of the Golden Fleece and encountering all sorts of hazards - on the way, but the real star is that kind of special effects Ray Harryhausen.

MAJOR BARBARA (1941) ●●
2.05-4.35pm
Faithful adaptation of the Shaw play about the arms manufacturer's daughter who joins the Salvation Army; it was directed by Gabriel Pascal, the eccentric Hungarian who managed to talk Shaw into making his work available for the cinema. Wendy Hiller is a fine Barbara and there are also reliable performances from Rex Harrison, Robert Morley, Robert Newton and Emlyn Williams.

STORMY WEATHER (1943) ●●
7-8.30pm
Lively all-black musical revue loosely based on the life of its leading man, that marvellously talented tap dancer Bill "Bojangles" Robinson. Also involved are Lena Horne, Fats Waller, Cab Calloway and the pianist from *Casablanca*, Dooley Wilson.

SANTA CLAUS CONQUERS THE MARTIANS (1964) ●
10.30-12.15am
The seasonal offering from the Channel 4 "World of Hollywood" season in which a Martian leader lands on earth and kidnaps Santa and two children, one of whom is played by the nine-year-old Pils Zadora, currently trying to be a sex bomb in *The Lonely Lady*.

CHRISTMAS DAY

BBC1

THE LITTLE CONVICTS (1979) ●
10.15-11.45pm
A mixture of real backgrounds and animation as Rolf Harris, playing Jake the Peg with the Extra Leg, tells the story of the convicts who settled and built Australia in the nineteenth century.

TREASURE ISLAND (1950) ●
3.50-5.25pm
Though made by Disney with an American Bobby Driscoll, as Jim Hawkins, this is a respectful version of Robert Louis Stevenson's classic yarn of pirates and buried treasure, dominated by Robert Newton's marvellously overplayed Long John Silver.

BETTER LATE THAN NEVER (1983) ●
10.15-11.45pm
The first showing in Britain of David Niven's last film in which he and Art Carney are trying to get their hands on a fortune inherited by the granddaughter of the woman they both loved. With Maggie Smith and Lionel Jeffries; the writer-director, a rare visitor to the cinema these days, is Bryan Forbes.

BBC2

MEET ME IN ST LOUIS (1944) ●●●
4.25-6.15pm
Judy Garland season starts on BBC2 with her finest musical, indeed one of the best musicals made by anyone, an affectionate evocation of turn-of-the-century America, warmly directed by Vincente Minnelli. The numbers include "The Boy Next Door". "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" and the "Trolley Song".

DUCK SOUP (1933) ●●●
11pm-12.10am
Of all the Marx Brothers films, this is one that offers the purest concentration of gags, without the distraction of pianos and large and romantic interludes. Freedonia gets a taste of Marxist rule as Rulius T. Firefly (alias Groucho) wages war on Sylvia, for whom Chico and Harpo are working as double agents.

ITV

SUPERMAN (1978) ●
3.15-5.40pm
Pretentious, heavy-handed and overlong version of what should have been an enjoyable comic strip, notable more for Marlon Brando's salary (\$3m for a 10-minute performance) than anything that appears on the screen. A pity for Christopher Reeve, a personable leading man who deserves better.

REVENGE OF THE PINK PANTHER (1978) ●
9.10-11pm
Last and feeblest of the true Pink Panther films, a perfect example of a good idea worked to exhaustion. But Peter Sellers, as the accident-prone Clouseau, still has his moments.

Channel 4

THE GANG'S ALL HERE (1943) ●●
1.15-3.10pm
Even by his standards, one of the most flamboyant of Busby Berkeley musicals with two particularly memorable numbers: Carmen Miranda singing "The Lady with the Tutti-Frutti Hat" supported by 60 girls; and the finale, involving two huge mirrors on either side of a revolving stage, with Alice Faye, Benny Goodman and his Orchestra and Eugene Pallete.

MONSIEUR HULOT'S HOLIDAY (1953) ●●●
4.25-6pm
The first, and probably most effective and certainly funniest appearance of Jacques Tati's amiable, simple-minded creation who never really comes to terms with the twentieth century and leaves chaos in his wake. His holiday is in a small seaside resort in Brittany, observed with all Tati's genius for comic detail.

THE KING OF COMEDY (1982) ●●●
8.25-10.25pm
A quick television showing for Martin Scorsese's dark and obsessional comedy about an aspiring funny man (played by Robert de Niro) who is so desperate to appear on a television chat show that he arranges the kidnapping of the show's host, Jerry Lewis. Scorsese says it is an examination of American values.

BOXING DAY

BBC1

THE BRIDGE ON THE RIVER KWAI (1957) ●●
2-3.35pm
Alec Guinness leading the Brits in a psychological battle of wits against the Japanese in a prisoner of war camp in Burma. Directed with characteristic craftsmanlike care by David Lean but arguments still go on about the precise meaning of the film's climax.

ROCKY (1976) ●●
7.50-9.45pm
Sequels in the cinema are rarely as good as the originals and the Rockys have been no exception. This first one, though, freshens up the hackneyed story of the boxer who makes good with a vibrant performance from Sylvester Stallone (who also wrote the script) and convincing Philadelphia locations.

BBC2

MAME (1974) ●
5.25-7.15pm
Indifferent version of a successful Broadway musical, with Lucille Ball as a wealthy socialite and being easily upstaged by Beatrice Arthur.

THE IMPRESS FILE (1985) ●
10.25pm-12.15am
The first and best of the three adaptations from Len Deighton's spy thrillers featuring Michael Caine as the shabby, bespectacled James Bond. The one who was not named in the books but arrived on the screen as Harry Palmer. This one has him on the track of a missing scientist. Sidney J. Furie directs, ostentatiously.

ITV

THE SPY WHO LOVED ME (1977) ●
6.30-8.45pm
Roger Moore as 007 and Barbara Bach as the cheesecake in an undistinguished addition to the James Bond cycle which bears little relation to Ian Fleming's book and relies on tired set pieces to cover up the cracks. The outside Richard Kiel, however, makes a splendid heavy.



Getting an airing: Margaret O'Brien (left) and Judy Garland in *Meet Me in St. Louis* Jacques Tati as the accident-prone Monsieur Hulot; Sylvester Stallone as Rocky

From rarely seen to evergreen

There is no doubt about the quantity. Feature films will be coming out of the box at the rate of 10 a day over the Christmas week and it will need several pairs of eyes, several sets and a battery of video recorders to keep up with them.

As for the quality, with so much to choose from it is hard to believe that even the most casual film watcher will not find something to taste, helped, we may hope, by our day-by-day, channel-by-channel critical guide.

The films roughly fall into three categories. There are the fairly recent releases, most of them coming to television for the first time. Some are very recent, such as Scorsese's *The King of Comedy*, which only appeared in the

cinema in the middle this year.

Others under this heading include *Superman*, *Revenge of the Pink Panther*, *The Spy Who Loved Me*, *The China Syndrome*, *The Dogs of War*, *Rocky*, *Carrie*, *Flash Gordon*, *Oh God!* and *Coma*. A second category embraces films of proven popularity that tend to be revived fairly regularly over holiday periods. *The Great Escape* is the archetypal example and others this year are *The Bridge on the River Kwai* and *El Cid*. What we do not have, for better or worse, are *The Sound of Music*, *The Railway Children* or *The Wizard of Oz*.

That leaves what might be called classic revivals, films of generally older vintage, many familiar but

others long forgotten except by that devoted band of cinema buffs who manage to catch up with them at an art house or a film society.

How many people, for instance, will have seen the *Mr Moto* series with Peter Lorre, which Channel 4 has unearthed? Or Bill "Bojangles" Robinson and company in *Stormy Weather*? Or even some of the Judy Garland films being shown on television for the first time?

Several film "seasons" are running through the week. The Cary Grant tribute, anticipating his eightieth birthday next month, continues with three of his Hitchcocks, while another of 1984's octogenarians, Dame Anna Neagle, is being fêted on Channel 4. There is a

fairly full Marx Brothers retrospective on BBC2, but, brilliant though they are, the films must be pretty familiar to most of us by now.

What the week notably lacks is a sizable contribution from the rich cinema of the Continent. The glorious exception is *Monsieur Hulot's Holiday*, which starts a short Jacques Tati season on Channel 4.

Our star rating system (totally subjective, but we hope of value) is as follows: ●●● Not to be missed ●●● Highly recommended ●●● Worth watching An asterisk at the end of an entry indicates that the film is being shown on British television for the first time.

THE FORTUNE (1974) ●
Midnight-1.35am (Thames only)
Stockard Channing's party performance as the threatened heiress is the bright spot in this misanthropic black comedy that somehow manages to waste both Warren Beatty and Jack Nicholson, not to mention its talented director, Mike Nichols.

Channel 4

A SWARM IN MAY (1983) ●
11.55am-12.35pm
Writer-director Colin Finbow's unusual piece for the Children's Film Unit about a 10-year-old choirboy (played by Oliver Hicks) who becomes involved in the ancient custom of bee-keeping at a rural cathedral. With Frank Millard as the organist who befriends him.

THE ADVENTURES OF TOM SAWYER (1938) ●
12.30-2pm
David O. Selznick's pleasant, if static version, of the classic story by Mark Twain. Tommy Kelly, a non-professional actor from the Bronx, plays Tom, and Jackie Moran is Huck Finn, while there is a rich character-acting from old Hollywood hands Walter Brennan, May Robson and Victor Jory.

RENALDO AND CLARA (1977) ●
9.30-12.40am
Written and directed by Bob Dylan, this long and complex film uses footage from the Rolling Thunder Revue concert tour of 1975 and 1976 as a framework for an exploration of Dylan's life as a poet and singer, with improvised acting and near-surreal sequences that defy literal interpretation.

HOLIDAY TUESDAY

BBC1

EL CID (1961) ●●● 1.35-4.30pm
Charlton Heston as the legendary knight of medieval Spain putting the Moors to flight in an epic well above average in the intelligence of its script, its superb colour photography and the perceptive direction of Anthony Mann. Sophia Loren adds her decorative presence.

HOOPER (1978) ●
5.25-8pm
Burt Reynolds produced as well as starred in this story of a Hollywood stuntman trying to maintain his position against a younger rival. Actions count for more than words but the stunts are impressive.

BBC2

THE WIZ (1978) ●
4.25-6.35pm
An all-black version of *The Wizard of Oz*, based on a Broadway musical, with a soul and disco score and set in New York. Diana Ross is an unconvincing Dorothy but other characters are more successfully cast and director Sidney Lumet gives it a strong visual style.

OH, GOD! (1977) ●
10.20pm-midnight
John Denver as a supermarket manager visited by God, who wears an anorak, sneakers and a baseball cap and turns out to be none other than the grand old man of American vaudeville George Burns, whose professionalism lifts an otherwise slight comedy.

ITV

THE SONS OF KATIE ELDER (1985) ●
3.15-5.25pm
John Wayne and Dean Martin lead in a roistering and violent revenge western being screened on Channel 4, featuring Peter Lorre, with steel-rimmed glasses and buck teeth, as the cunning Japanese detective created by John P. Marquand. They pretended to be no more than second features but were well above par for their type.

THE CHINA SYNDROME (1979) ●●
9-11.15pm
Accident at a nuclear power plant investigated by TV reporter Jane Fonda, radical cameraman Michael Douglas and technician Jack Conrad in a thriller with a message which builds genuine suspense and contains believable characters superbly acted.

Channel 4

THE ADVENTURES OF HUCKLEBERRY FINN (1939) ●
10.55am-12.30pm
Huck is played by the young Mickey

Rooney, his first starring part, in a pleasing adaptation of the Mark Twain story, with the Sacramento River standing in for the Mississippi. Nice performances, too, from Walter Connolly as "The King" and William Frawley as "The Duke".

SPRING IN PARK LANE (1948) ●●
5-6.45pm
A short tribute to Dame Anna Neagle starts with one of her most successful vehicles, taken from the series of romantic comedies with Michael Wilding which made such an impact in austerity Britain. She plays the niece of a wealthy art collector falling for the new footman at her uncle's lavish apartment. Herbert Wilcox, Dame Anna's husband, directs.

MR MOTO'S GAMBLE (1938) ●●
11.20pm-12.35am
The first of three Mr Moto adventures being screened on Channel 4, featuring Peter Lorre, with steel-rimmed glasses and buck teeth, as the cunning Japanese detective created by John P. Marquand. They pretended to be no more than second features but were well above par for their type.

WEDNESDAY

BBC1

DODGE CITY (1939) ●
1.50-3.30pm
Errol Flynn as a cattleman cleaning up the frontier town in an enjoyable Warner Brothers western which makes fresh use of familiar ingredients such as the cattle drive along the Chisholm Trail and the bar-room brawl. Olivia de Havilland and Ann Sheridan in support; the director is Michael (Casablanca) Curtiz.

THE GREAT ESCAPE (1963) ●●
11.45pm-1.15am
John Sturges's prison-camp epic with the sombre climax can still grip, even if we have seen it several times on television already. Leading the POWs are Steve McQueen (and his famous motorcycle sequence), James Garner and Dickie Attenborough, with a particularly effective performance from Donald Pleasence as the camp forger.

THE LAST OF THE MOHICANS (1956) ●
11.20pm-12.35am
The last film by Busby Berkeley as director (though he left before the end and the musical numbers were completed by Gene Kelly and Stanley Donen). The story of vaudevillians who spend their summers playing baseball, it was a sort of dry run for *On the Town* with four of the same stars - Kelly, Frank Sinatra, Betty Garrett and Jules Munshin.

VICTORIA THE GREAT (1937) ●●
4.45-7pm
With Prince Albert much in the public eye at the moment this revival is well timed, though the film is notable not so much for Anton Wallbrook's portrayal of the Consort as Anna Neagle in her most famous screen role (which she repeated in two more films) as the Queen. An imperious performance helped by fine work from the make-up department.

THINK FAST, MR MOTO (1937) ●●
10.55pm-12.10am
Second in the Mr Moto season (though the first to be made) is Peter Lorre's Japanese detective getting to grips with a gang of smugglers on board a freighter sailing from San Francisco to Shanghai.

THURSDAY

BBC1

BROTHER OF THE WIND 1978 ●
2.05-3.30pm
Wildlife film, set in the Canadian Rockies, starring Dick Robinson (who also directs) as an animal handler who rescues the orphaned pups after the mother wolf is shot dead from a passing plane.

COMA (1977) ●
9-10.50pm (Wales 11.20pm-1am)
Michael Crichton's morbid thriller about a young doctor (Genevieve Bujold) whose investigation into a series of terminal cases reveals an international medical conspiracy. It has received much critical attention of late, not least from the feminist camp; the Bujold character is certainly her own woman.

BBC2

EVERYBODY SINGS (1936) ●
2.05-3.25pm
A very early Judy Garland vehicle in which she is a talented daughter of a theatrical family trying (yes, you have guessed) to put on a Broadway show. Thanks to their servants - played by the unlikely pair of Allan Jones and Fanny Brice - they manage it. Ideal for filling a cheery December afternoon.

SUSPICION (1941) ●●
4.05-6.00pm
Joan Fontaine won the Oscar she might well have had for her previous Hitchcock film, *Rebecca*, as the shy society girl who marries dashing playboy Cary Grant and comes increasingly to suspect that he is trying to do away with her. Nice support from Hollywood Brits Sir Cedric Hardwicke, Dame May Whitty and Nigel Bruce.

THE GYPSY MOTHS (1969) ●
7-8.45pm
Burt Lancaster leads a team of sky divers and falls in love with Deborah Kerr in a film that contains splendid aerial sequences, intelligently handled human relationships and the carefully observed setting of a small Kansas

BBC2

PRESENTING LILY MARS (1943) ●
10-10.30pm
Judy Garland season continues with the story about the small-town girl who makes it on Broadway. But if the plot has serviced a score of musicals there is still much to enjoy, from the freshness of the young Judy to expertly staged numbers.

FUNERAL IN BERLIN (1967) ●
9.30-11.10pm
Another excursion into Len Deighton territory as Michael Caine is sent to Berlin to seek out a potential Russian defector, played in larger-than-life style by Oscar Homolka. Competently done but it needs a genius to unravel the plot.

HORSE FEATHERS (1932) ●●●
11.15pm-12.25am
Early Marx Brothers comedy and one of their best in which the gags come fast and furious and even the musical bits earn their keep. The plot - as if it mattered - has Groucho as the president of a college signing up some dubious recruits for the football team that must win at all costs.

ITV

THE THIEF OF BAGDAD (1978) ●
10.55pm-12.15am
Not, sadly, the marvellous film Michael Powell made for Korda but the most recent version of the Arabian Nights fantasy with Peter Ustinov as the Caliph, Terence Stamp as the villainous Wazir and Roddy McDowall as Hassan. Efficiently directed by Clive Donner.

CARRIE (1976) ●
10.15pm-12.10am
Gory piece of horror from Brian de Palma, one of the best current exponents of the genre. Sissy Spacek plays the repressed high school girl whose supernatural powers help her to exact a terrible revenge on those who taunt her; and Piper Laurie is superb as the religion-crazy mother.

Channel 4

TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL GAME (1949) ●
3-4.45pm
The last film by Busby Berkeley as director (though he left before the end and the musical numbers were completed by Gene Kelly and Stanley Donen). The story of vaudevillians who spend their summers playing baseball, it was a sort of dry run for *On the Town* with four of the same stars - Kelly, Frank Sinatra, Betty Garrett and Jules Munshin.

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FRIDAY

BBC1

KNIGHTS (1966) ●
1.45-3.00pm
Dulish epic of British imperialism about General Gordon's last stand in the Sudan. Though the cast includes such heavyweights as Laurence Olivier (as the Mahdi) and Ralph Richardson (Gladstone) by far the best performance comes from Charlton Heston as Gordon. Basil Dearden directs.

WARLORDS OF ATLANTIS (1978) ●
6.30-7.55pm
One for the kids as a giant octopus kidnaps intrepid Victorian scientists and takes them to the lost city of Atlantis. Older movie viewers may remember that Cyd Charisse, the leggy dancer from 1940s musicals, is doing in such a place.

THE MIDNIGHT MAN (1974) ●
11.25pm-1.25am
Burt Lancaster stars in a film he also co-wrote, co-produced and co-directed (with Roland Kibbee) as a killer let out on parole who becomes a college security guard and tries to unravel a convoluted murder case.

BBC2

THE PIRATE (1948) ●
1.40-3.20pm
Lively minor MGM musical, directed with characteristic feel for decor by Vincente Minnelli, and starring Gene Kelly and Judy Garland who find romance in the nineteenth-century Caribbean. The songs are by Cole Porter.

NOTORIOUS (1946) ●●●
4.50-6.30pm
Cary Grant as American secret service man sent to smoke out a Nazi cell in Rio de Janeiro, enjoying a memorable screen kiss with Ingrid Bergman and trying to outwit the sinister Claude Rains. Among the finest of Hitchcock's thrillers, consistently inventive and engrossing.

BILLION DOLLAR BRAIN (1967) ●
9.30-11.15pm
The last of the Michael Caine-Len Deighton trilogy, with our downbeat hero encountering old adversary Oscar Homolka in Finland; the plot is denser than ever but there are some visual pyrotechnics from director Ken Russell, including an ice bridge pinched from *Alexander Nevsky*.

ANIMAL CRACKERS (1930) ●●
11.55pm-1.35am
Early Marx Brothers' film which is technically primitive and betrays its stage origin, but contains generous helpings of the brothers' wit and style. Groucho plays an African explorer turning up at a country-house party in uproar after the theft of an old master.

ITV

LIVE A LITTLE, STEAL A LOT (1974) ●
7.30-9.15pm
Based on the real story of two beach loafers from Miami who stage an elaborate jewel robbery at the Museum of Natural History in New York. They are played by Robert Conrad and Don Stroud.

Leading lady who was our sort of star

Dame Anna Neagle started her career on the stage, and this Christmas, in her eightieth year, she returns to it in the pantomime *Cinderella* at Bristol. But for 20 years or so, either side of the Second World War, she was much better known as a leading lady of the cinema and was several times voted Britain's biggest box-office draw.

She made her first film in 1930 and two years later was Jack Buchanan's leading lady in *Goodnight Vienna*. The producer-director was Herbert Wilcox, and it was the start of a famous partnership, for in 25 years she appeared for only two other directors.

Wilcox may not be numbered among this country's more creative film-makers, but he had a showman's feel for what the public

wanted and, in collaboration with his wife, managed consistently to catch the popular mood, whether with musicals, historical dramas or romantic comedies.

From *Goodnight Vienna* Neagle went on to Noel Coward's *Elster Sweet* and to *Nell Gwyn* and in 1937 achieved her first popular triumph as *Victoria the Great*. The film was so successful that a sequel, *Sixty Glorious Years*, was rushed out for the following year. She played other British heroines in *Nurse Edith Cavell* and *They Flew Alone*, the story of Amy Johnson.

In 1946 she was teamed with Michael Wilding for the first time in *Piccadilly Incident*. The Neagle-Wilding films were essentially an escape from post-war austerity, and as Godfrey Winn wrote of the

principals: "They're our sort of people, not so-called glamour stars, but good hard-working professionals - laughing, dancing and romancing together".

When the cycle had run its course, Neagle returned to operas, as Odette Churchill and Florence Nightingale; played opposite Errol Flynn, of all people, in *King's Rhapsody*; and tried to make a star of Frankie Vaughan. In 1958 she retired from the screen, and with *Room at the Top* and its ilk just around the corner, her timing was impeccable, but she left much that can still be enjoyed, as Channel 4 viewers will discover over the next few days. (The Anna Neagle films are on Tues, Wed, Thurs and Fri. *The Lady with the Lamp* is on Dec 31 and *Elster Sweet* on Jan 2).

BELL'S

SCOTCH WHISKY

Christmas Eve

Christmas Day

Edited by
Peter Davalle



Stars of the shows: Roger Daltrey in "The Comedy of Errors" (BBC2) and Cilla Black with her new-style "family" (ITV)



Shaping up well: Robert Hardy and friends in James Herriot's "All Creatures Great and Small" (BBC1) and The Two Ronnies (BBC1)

BBC 1

- 8.25 **Indie-High Private Eye:** American cartoon (r).
9.00 **From All of Us to All of You:** Christmas Eve from Walt Disney. Clips from favourite cartoons, including Snow White and Peter Pan.
9.45 **The Happy World of Hanna-Barbera:** Gene Kelly introduces clips from cartoons featuring characters such as Fred Flintstone and Huckleberry Hound.
10.50 **Film: A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court (1949):** Bing Crosby in a comedy musical, based on Mark Twain's story (r).
12.30 **Bonanza:** Venerable western, with Lorne Greene and Dan Blocker. A yarn-spinning desperado is accused of murder and robbery.
1.30 **Around the World with Dots:** (1982) Cartoon about a global search for a little girl's lost kangaroo. With Drew Forsythe. In Australia.
2.30 **Film: The Magic of Lassie (1978):** TV movie about the wonder dog. With James Stewart, Mickey Rooney, and others.
4.10 **The Dukes of Hazard:** Coy falls in love with Bonnie Ann, one of the stunt-bicycle riding Beasley Sisters, but Vance feels his cousin's affections may be misplaced.
5.00 **News:** read by Jan Leeming.
5.10 **Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em:** A story of a very unhappy young instructor. Frank (Michael Crawford) starts a course of lessons. Frederick (Roger Moore) plays the fearful teacher (r).
5.55 **Pop Quiz:** Dave Edmunds and Roger Taylor captain the two teams. Facing the questions are Mark Wilson, Linzi, Lee John (singing with imagination) and Midge Line (Ultara's front man).

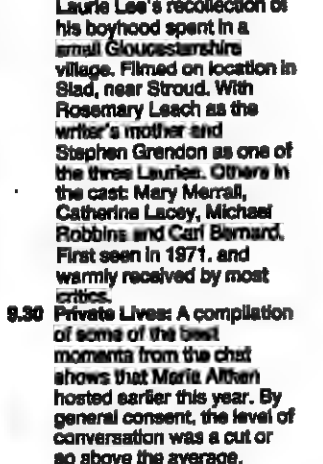


Saving Melody Anderson in Flash Gordon (7.10 pm)

- 6.30 **The Little and Large Show:** The line-up of guests includes Jimmy Crichton, Joe Brown, comedian Martin Dingley, Cleo Rocos, and Chris and Dave (singing Melancholy Baby).
7.10 **Film: Flash Gordon (1980):** The comic strip comes to life. With Sam Jones, Topol, Melody Anderson, Brian Blessed and Max Von Sydow. (r).
8.55 **Val Doonican's Christmas Party:** Old-fashioned festive celebrations, with special guests Howard Keel (former Hollywood star, now a member of the Dallas repertory company), The Nolans, Sky, and Wall Street Crash.
9.40 **Berganza:** Guest actress Liza Goddard plays the notorious jewel thief who arrives in Jersey, on holiday, just when the private auction of a huge diamond is to take place. Berganza (John Nettles) keeps a gimlet eye on her. None the less, the jewel is stolen. What is more, it happens right in the middle of the auction.
10.35 **News:** read by Jan Leeming. And Christmas Day weather.
10.45 **The Good Old Days:** Edwardian-type entertainment from the City Varieties. Leads, with Leonard Sachs as the gavel-banging chairman. The entertainers: Danny La Rue, Valerie Hester, Robert White, Bernard Cribbins, Barry Cryer, the Clark Brothers - and a rawcomer from Paris, the comedy-magician Castan Blum.
11.45 **Midnight Ecstasies:** While millions of viewers sit at home, five hundred worshippers will be in the Cathedral Church of St Mary the Virgin, Blackburn, for the traditional service of carols, readings and sermon.
12.45 **Weather forecast.**

BBC 2

- 1.05 **Film: Scrooge (1911):** Alastair Sim, cast against type, as Dickens's old scroff. With Kathleen Harrison and (as Marley's Ghost) Michael Hordern. Shakespeare's the goodie Roy Hudd, the comedian, shows how effectively the Bard made use of "gags" and "comic routines" in his plays. This is a curtain-raiser to tonight's (5.00) production of The Comedy of Errors.
2.55 **The Book Games:** First of four literary quizzes, chaired by Robert Robinson (the rest can be seen on consecutive days, from tomorrow). Today's contestants: Anthony Burgess, Germaine Greer, Susan Hill and Adam Mars-Jones. Freddie Jones reads the extracts.
3.25 **Film: Test Tube of Mink (1969):** Cary Grant/Doris Day comedy, with Gig Young in support. (r).
5.00 **The BBC Television Shakespeare:** The Comedy of Errors. Roger Daltrey and Michael Kitchen play the two parts of identical twins. Strong support from Wendy Hiller, Cyril Cusack, Charles Gray, Suzanne Sheridan and Joanne Pearce. Sky at Drury Lane. Highlights of the show staged at the Theatre Royal earlier this month. John Williams, on guitar, leads a group, including Flowers, Tristan Fry, Steve Gray and Kevin Peek. Special guest: Patrick Rios.
7.45 **News:** the reader is Jan Leeming.
7.55 **Film: As You Like It:** Another chance to see Hugh Whitmore's television adaptation (premiered last night) of the original of Laurie Lee's recollection of his boyhood spent in a small Gloucestershire village. Filmed on location in St. Paul, near Stroud, with Rosemary Leach as the writer's mother and Stephen Grendon as one of the three Laurels. Others in the cast: Mary Moll, Catherine Lacey, Michael Robbins and Cal Bernard. First seen in 1971, and warmly received by most critics.
9.30 **Private Lives:** A compilation of some of the best moments from the chat show that Maria Allen hosted earlier this year. By general consent, the level of conversation was a cut or so above the average. Tonight's excerpts feature Tracey Ullman and Patrick Leitch, Miriam Stoppard and Alan Price, Beryl Reid and Kingley Amis, Clare Francis and Yehudi Menuhin, and Barbara Castle and A. J. P. Taylor. **Whistle Test:** Presents: Live from the Hammersmith. Osborn, Paul Young and the Royal Family's final concert in their 12 Days of Christmas tour. The concert can also be heard on Radio 1, in stereo.
10.45 **Film: To Catch a Thief (1955):** Alfred Hitchcock's sophisticated thriller, with Cary Grant, Grace Kelly, Jesse Royce Landis and the irascible (but now departed) John Williams. Ends at 12.35am. (r)

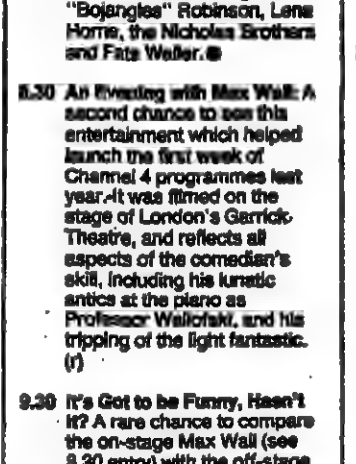


Pretending: Billy Dainty, Julie Rogers, Kenneth Connor and Dana in the 3-2-1 pantomime, Dick Whittington (ITV, 6.45 pm)

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CHANNEL 4

- 2.05 **Film: Major Barbara (1941):** Wendy Hiller as the Salvation Army daughter of a munitions tycoon, in Gabriel Pascal's respectful film of Shaw's argumentative play. With Rex Harrison, Robert Morley, Walter Hudd and Robert Newton. (r).
4.35 **Unforgettable Swingtime:** Unashamedly nostalgic show, hosted by Pat Phoenix (Coronation Street's Elsie Tanner), which looks back at some of the hit songs from the Twenties to the early Fifties. They are performed by Kay Starr and Ronnie Hilton, backed up by the Mike Morton Orchestra and Singers.
5.05 **Brooklands:** Omnibus edition of the car race series. The news that Michael and Marie have been so anxiously awaiting arrives at last. In the form of a Christmas card. And Marie finds herself waiting at a hospital - with Father Christmas (r).
6.00 **News:** headlines. And weather prospects for Christmas Day. Followed by: A Week Six Cheeky: One-hour current-affairs for a new series starting on Channel 4 in the new year called Everyone A Special Kind of Artist. Tonight's film is about comic postcard artist Arnold Taylor, now in his seventies. His fat ladies, cartoonists and double-entendres are familiar to everybody who has ever been into a seaside postcard shop. But he has also designed postcards for children. And we also see something of the portraits he did during his "Desert Rats" days in North Africa.
7.00 **Film: Stormy Weather (1943):** Hollywood show-window for some of America's remarkable black talent, including Bill "Bojangles" Robinson, Lora Horne, the Nicholas Brothers and Fats Waller. (r).
8.30 **An Evening with Max Wall:** A second chance to see this entertainment which helped launch the first week of Channel 4 programmes last year. It was filmed on the stage of London's Garrick Theatre, and reflects all aspects of the comedian's skill, including his kinetic antics at the piano as Professor Wallflower, and his tripping of the light fantastic. (r).
9.30 **It's Got to Be Funny, Hasn't it?** A rare chance to compare the on-stage Max Wall (see 8.30 entry) with the off-stage Max Wall. The funny man is seen in conversation with Peter Williams, looking back over 75 years in show business. Filmed in his bedchamber in south-east London which has been his home for 12 years, estranged from his family and away from the warmth of an audience and the high life he once enjoyed. There are extracts from his own television series that were so popular in the Fifties. We also see him in sequences from John Osborne's The Entertainer and Beckett's Waiting for Godot.
10.30 **Film: The Worst of Hollywood:** Santa Claus Conquers the Martians (1964) with Leonard Hicks, Vincent Beck and Pia Zadora. Ends at 12.15.



WHAT THE DRIFTERS MEAN: 1. Santa, 2. Black and white, (r) Repeat. © Christmas Times, page 17.

- 8.45 **News from ITV.**
9.00 **Hurt to Hurt:** The husband and wife duo, who have been a comedy team since the 1950s, are back on the air with a series of Christmas sketches. Co-starring Robert Wagner and Sherry Long. They can also be seen, live from the United States, in the Christmas night show on ITV - Jimmy Tarbuck's Christmas All Stars (7.45 pm).
10.00 **Film: Agatha Christie's Murder is Easy (1961):** Miss Marple in Scotland. Strong cast includes Bill Blythe, Lesley-Anne Down, Olivia de Havilland, Jonathan Pryce, Anthony Valentine and Timothy West.
11.45 **Midnight Mass:** from St Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle upon Tyne. The celebrants include the Right Rev Hugh Lindsay, Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle, the Very Rev Canon Francis Kearney, the Rev Paul McEneaney, and the Rev Philip Carroll. Organist and choirman: David Allison. Closes at 12.40.

TV-am

- 6.25 **Good Morning Britain:** with the Partners (Michael and Mary). Includes Roland the Rat's Christmas Wonderland (Father Christmas appears at 8.30).
8.40 **Dads Ruv's Christmas Party:** Party quiz, with Jeremy Beadle; Terry Jones and the devil; parcel-passing robots; and guest stars Lynsey de Paul, the Belle Stars, the Lotus Eaters, Tracey Ullman, and Madness. Ends at 9.25 am.
9.25 **Metal Mickey:** The bossy robot decides that he should be in charge of the Wilberforce's family party - and play the front end of the cow (r).
9.35 **Cartoon Times:** festive fun.
10.05 **The Monsters' Christmas:** New Zealand story about a wicked witch who steals some monsters' voices - and a girl's quest to find them.
11.00 **The Smurfs' Christmas:** Speculate the tiny folk versus something evil.
11.25 **The Fraggles are Coming:** Curiouser for a new puppet series.
11.30 **Terminator:** Zeke launches an all-out attack - despite the season of goodwill (r).
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12.00 **Film Fun at Christmas:** Cartoons and flash-and-blood fun at the Roxy cinema. With Derek Griffiths (r).
1.00 **Adam Ant: Prince Charming Revue:** Music, pantomime, and theatre - on the stage of London's Dominion Theatre. The aim was to get away from the traditional rock show format; 2.20 Twenty Pts.
2.30 **Film: Jason and the Argonauts (1963):** High adventure on the trail of the Golden Fleece. With Todd Armstrong, Nancy Kovack, Honor Blackman. (r).
4.25 **News from ITV.**
4.30 **The Krumpholtzes at Christmas:** Music and laughter show. The guests include Bernie Winters, Melvyn Hayes, Jimmy Crichton, Sarah Holliday, Pope and the Gals, Barbara Bax, and Modern Romance.
6.15 **Chips:** Thieves steal a church treasure during the Christmas season. With Larry Wilcox and Erik Estrada as the police patrol chums.
6.19 **Punchline:** Tonight's celebrity partners are Diane Dora and Christopher Bigsby, and the Puncture "pals" include Faith Brown, Barbara Kelly, Bob Caroleys and Spit the Dog, and Mike Reid. The comedians are Sharon Labrum, from Theford, and Alison Tessler, from Haywards Heath.
6.45 **3-2-1:** A special edition of the family game show, hosted by Ted Rogers. Appropriately, all the contestants are children.
7.45 **Cilla Black's Christmas Eve:** The singer, "at home" (in the studio) welcomes show business guests who drop in to wish her the compliments of the season. She also chats, by satellite, with some friends across the Atlantic (the Bee Gees, for instance, and George Benson). Others involved are Frankie Howard (singing some awful Christmas songs that did not make the hit parade), and some singers of carols that did stay the course.
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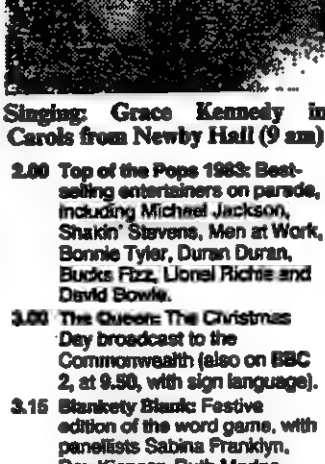


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BBC 1

- 8.35 **The Christmas Raccoons:** musical cartoon, with the voices (spoken) of Rich Little and (sung) of Rita Coolidge and Rupert Holmes.
9.00 **Carols from Newby Hall:** Christmas cheer from this famous Yorkshire house. Ian Carmichael's guests are Grace Kennedy, Robert White, and the Cambridge University Chamber choir.
9.50 **Away in a Manger:** Christmas through the eyes of primary schoolchildren from all parts of the country.
10.30 **Christmas Morning Family Service:** From The Mint Methodist Church, Exeter. With the President of the Methodist Conference, the Rev Anne Crosswell; 11.17 Weather.
11.20 **The Little Unicorn:** Rolf Harris (as Jake the Pig) in a tale about the wrongdoers who helped to create Australia.
12.35 **Ziggy's Gals:** Short, animated film about a street-corner Santa Claus who gets a job with a confidence trickster; 1.00 Bugs Bunny cartoon.
1.05 **Film: Gitterball (1977):** Children's Film Foundation fantasy about a thing from outer space befriended by two young lads. With Ben Buckton and Keith Jayne.

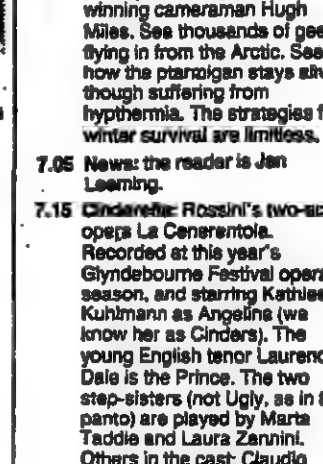


Singing: Grace Kennedy in Carols from Newby Hall (9 am)

- 2.00 **Top of the Pops 1983:** Best-selling entertainers on parade, including Michael Jackson, Shakin' Stevens, Men at Work, Bonnie Tyler, Duran Duran, Bucks Fizz, Lionel Richie and David Bowie.
3.00 **The Queens:** The Christmas Day broadcast to the Commonwealth (also on BBC 2, at 9.50, with sign language).
3.15 **Blankety Blank:** Festive edition of the word game, with panellists Sabina Franklin, Roy Kinnear, Ruth Madoc, Patrick Moore, Beryl Reid and Freddie Starr. The MC: Terry Wogan.
3.50 **Film: Treasure Island (1950):** Disney version of the R. L. Stevenson classic with Robert Newton (Long John Silver) and Bobby Boswell (Jim Hawkins).
5.25 **News:** read by Jan Leeming.
5.35 **Just a Fix:** Mr. Saville makes it possible for two blind teenagers to ride around the Horse of the Year course, and for a young lad to become Santa Claus and bring good cheer to a local Derby and Joan Clark.
5.15 **Songs of Praise Special:** Chorus, churches and schools in Peterborough combine at the cathedral for a special edition of this hugely popular programme.
7.15 **The Two Ronnies:** Comedy highlight is a tale called The Adventures of Archie. Mr. Corbett has the title role, with Mr. Barker as the Gull, and Newt Hewitt as the Bird. Guest star: Elton John.
8.05 **All Creatures Great and Small:** Back to James Herriot's Yorkshire Dales for another year about country vets. All the old familiar faces are back on parade (Christopher Timothy, Carol Drinkwater, Robert Hardy and Peter Davison).
9.35 **Only Fools and Horses:** The festive jolly is restrained at the Trotters' high-rise flat, and the arrival of an unexpected visitor (Mr Trotter Senior) does little to change things.
10.05 **News:** the reader is Jan Leeming.
10.15 **Film: Better Late than Never (1963):** David Niven's best film. He co-stars Maggie Smith and Art Carney. (r).
11.45 **The Spencers at York:** And their highly seasonal setting in the Victorian street at the Castle Museum. Ends at 12.15.

BBC 2

- 2.00 **Nobody Mind the Rain:** Impressions of Coronation Day. Another chance to see this hugely enjoyable kaleidoscopic picture of what it was like to be alive (and a royalist) in Britain on June 2, 1953. The pomp and ceremony in Westminster Abbey was only half the excitement. The rest was to be found in the streets. Memories of the great day from, among others, Lord Ramsey (then Bishop of Durham), Lord Eccles (then Minister of Works), and Lady Raine (one of the Queen's maids of honour) (r).
3.00 **The Book Game:** Fun and games with a literary slant, involving Robert Robinson (as chairman), Anthony Burgess, Germaine Greer, Susan Hill and Adam Mars-Jones. The readings are taken care of by Freddie Jones. Another game tomorrow at 4.30.
3.30 **The Great Palace: The Story of Parliament:** A repeat screening of last Thursday's instalment (the last film in the series of eight) about the "strangers" at the Palace of Westminster - the 2,000 non-MPs who work there. Written by Christopher Jones, and narrated by Anthony Quayle who, despite the magnificence surrounding him, and the weight of history that presses down on the story of Westminster, has never sounded over-awed by any of it (r).
4.20 **Henry's Cat:** a Bob Godfrey and Stan Hayday cartoon.
4.25 **Film: Meet Me in St Louis (1944):** Judy Garland and The Trolley Song.
5.15 **The Natural World: Winter Days:** Remarkable wildlife film, photographed by prize-winning cameraman Hugh Miles. See thousands of geese flying in from the Arctic. See how the ptarmigan stays alive through suffering from hypothermia. The strategies for winter survival are limitless.
7.05 **News:** the reader is Jan Leeming.
7.15 **Chandeville:** Rossini's two-act opera La Cenerentola. Recorded at this year's Glyndebourne Festival opera season, and starring Kathleen Kuhlmann as Angelina (we know her as Cinderella), the young English tenor Laurence Dale is the Prince. The two step-sisters (not ugly, as in the pantos) are played by Marie Taddie and Laura Zannini. Others in the cast: Claudio Desden (Don Magnifico), Albert Rinaldi (Dandini) and Rodrick Kennedy (Aldoro). Donato Harcourt conducts the London Philharmonic Orchestra.
9.50 **The Queens:** In case you missed Her Majesty on BBC 1 at 3.00 or if you are keen to listen to what she had to say for a second time, here, again, is the Christmas Day message to the Commonwealth - this time, with subtitles and with a sign language interpretation for the deaf of hearing.
10.05 **The Bob Monkhouse Show:** And the special guest is Norman Wisdom. Others in the visitors' seats will include the Russian-American comedian Yakov Smirnoff. Music from Bertie Reading and the Harry Secombe Band.
11.00 **Film: The Brothers in Duck Soup (1933):** And it would be difficult to find a more riotous way to bring Christmas Day to an end (at 12.10 am). (r)

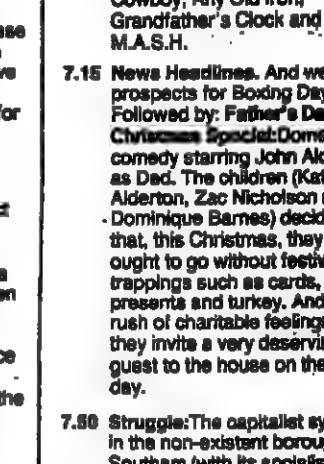


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CHANNEL 4

- 10.30 **Christmas Ornament:** Bach's sacred work - six cantatas - is performed in the Cloister Church of Wauldhausen in Austria, on original period instruments. The conductor: Nikolaus Harnoncourt. With soloists Peter Schreier (tenor), Robert Holl (bass) and members of the Tolzer Boys Choir, with the Cantatus Musicians of Vienna.
1.15 **Film: The Gang's All Here (1943):** Hollywood musical, with Busby Berkeley routines. With Alice Faye, James Ellison and Carmen Miranda. (r).
3.10 **Skywalkers:** Short, animated film, featuring a species of primitive hunters (green, snout creatures called Perleians) who inhabit a mass of vegetation suspended in the sky, in pedal-driven sky-boats, they hunt sky-whales. We learn of the close relationship that exists between hunter and hunted. The dialogue is in a specially invented language, and the music is by Dirk Haggis.
3.25 **Frage:** Earthquake Alaska's force and fauna evolved to cope with the territory's extreme conditions. Eight months every year the land is locked in the icy grip of winter. It is the final film in what has been a remarkable historical series and it is called Alyeska.
4.25 **Film: Monsieur Hulot's Holiday (1953):** Jacques Tati causes chaos in a seaside resort in Brittany. (r).
6.00 **The Queens:** The message to the Commonwealth. There are subtitles for people with hearing difficulties.
6.15 **Twice Nightly:** One hour of parodies from the Barron Knights. They perform many of their hits, including Swindon Cowboy, Any Old Iron, Grandfather's Clock and M.A.S.H.
7.15 **News:** headlines. And weather prospects for Boxing Day. Followed by: Father's Day. Comedy starring John Alderton as Dad. The children (Katie Alderton, Zac Nicholson and Dominique Barnes) decide that, this Christmas, they ought to go without festive rappings such as cards, trees, presents and turkey. And in a rush of charitable feelings, they invite a very deserving guest to the house on the big day.
7.50 **Struggle:** The capitalist system in the non-existent borough of Southern (with its socialist-led council) is tottering on the edge of destruction. Just one vote could decide its fate.
8.25 **Film: The King of Comedy (1982):** Rapid appearance on the small screen of Martin Scorsese's odd comedy, with Jerry Lewis and Robert De Niro. (r).
10.25 **Tedada:** Peter Brook's Paris Cabaret. The opera singers from Mr Brook's recently acclaimed Carmen let their hair down and join the rest of Brook's Bouffes du Nord theatre company in Paris in a programme of cabaret songs in English and French.
11.10 **Peace on Earth:** Words, music and paintings - all related to the birthplace of Christ. Chorus from all over the world assemble in the Manger Square in Jerusalem. Narrated by Dame Flora Robson, with readings by Laurence Olivier; 12.10 Closes down.

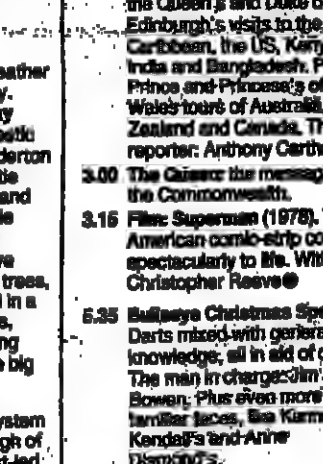


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REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

- BBC1 WALES:** 10.45-11.45am Christmas cards from the Ascension. 11.45-12.45am Welsh service and personnel on Ascension Island with their families back in Wales, through the medium of song. 12.45am Weather for Wales. Closes. **SCOTLAND:** 11.45-12.30am Christmas Eve. A Christmas Service from the Parish Church of St George's - Tron, in the heart of Glasgow. 12.30am Weather for Scotland. Closes. **NORTHERN IRELAND:** 12.45am Weather. Northern Ireland news headlines. Closes. **ENGLAND:** 12.55am Closes.
- ANGLIA:** As London except: 5.15pm-5.10 Knight Rider. 12.40am Closes down.
- ULSTER:** As London except: 5.15pm-5.10 Knight Rider. 12.40am Closes down.
- YORKSHIRE:** As London except: 5.15pm-5.10 Knight Rider. 12.40am Closes down.
- TYNE TEES:** As London except: 5.15pm-5.10 Knight Rider. 12.40am Closes down.
- GRANADA:** As London except: 5.15pm-5.10 Knight Rider. 12.40am Closes down.
- BORDER:** As London except: 5.15pm-5.10 Knight Rider. 12.40am Closes down.
- CENTRAL:** As London except: 5.15pm-5.10 Knight Rider. 12.40am Closes down.
- BBC1 WALES:** 11.55am News of Wales headlines and weather. Closes. **SCOTLAND:** 9.50-10.10am "It's Christmas". 10.10-10.30 Christmas Morning. 11.55-12.30 Carols for Christmas Day. 12.30am Scottish news summary and weather. Closes. **NORTHERN IRELAND:** 12.20am Closes. **ENGLAND:** 12.20am Closes.
- SCOTTISH:** As London except: 9.55am Moderator's Christmas Message. 9.55-10.00 The Sound of Christmas. 11.40pm Late Call. 11.45 House Calls. 12.15am Closes.
- TSW:** As London except: 9.55am-9.55am Look and See. 11.40pm Streets of San Francisco. 12.35am Postscript. 12.40am Closes.
- CENTRAL:** As London except: 11.40pm A Different Christmas. 11.45am Closes.
- S4C:** Starts 11.55am Xmas Urddono. 1.15pm Gang's All Here. 3.10 Skywalkers. 3.50 Tui Bethlehem. 3.50 Queen's Christmas Message. 4.00 Buster Keaton: The General. 5.30 Fo A. 6.00 Wm O'wac. 6.05 Universal Studios. 6.35 Newyddion. 7.00 Pobl Y Cwm. 7.20 Rhaglen newydd. 8.20 Hantys Fawr. 9.10 Deuch. 9.40 Fawr's Day Christmas Special. 10.40 Place on Earth. 12.00 Closes down.
- ULSTER:** As London except: Room at the Inn. 11.40pm Newhart: No Room at the Inn. 12.00am Closes.
- ANGLIA:** As London except: 11.40pm The A-Team (George Peppard). 12.35am A Different Christmas. 12.40am Closes down.
- YORKSHIRE:** As London except: 12.10am A Different Christmas. 12.40am Closes down.
- HTV:** As London except: 11.40pm Journey To The Unknown. 12.40am Card for Christmas. Bristol Cathedral Choir. 12.45am Weather and Closes down.
- MTV WALES:** No variation.
- TYNE TEES:** 9.25am Morning Glory. 9.30-9.50 Night of the Animals. 11.40pm John Lowe Chats. 12.10am Message for Christmas. Closes down.
- GRANADIA:** As London except: Christmas Message. 9.55-10.00 Sounds of Christmas. 11.45am Reflections. 11.45am Jule Iglesies in the Holy Land. 12.35am Closes down.
- BORDER:** As London except: 9.25am Morning Glory. 9.30-9.50 Night of the Animals. 11.40pm John Lowe Chats. 12.10am Message for Christmas. 11.50 Closes down.

Boxing Day

Edited by Peter Dean

BBC 1

- 9.00 The New Adventures of Flash Gordon. Today the indestructible hero faces the Revolt of the Power Men.
- 9.20 The Natural World: Snowy. Chilly, Muddy and Wet. Oxford zoologist John Pelling with a puppy and two kittens. Mr Pelling discovers that our domestic pets really are wild animals, thinly disguised (r).
- 10.10 Cartoons: Bugs Bunny in Jack Wabbit and the Bearstark - a Warner Brothers cartoon; and Dragoncastle, an award-winning fantasy film made by 13-year old Paul Mason and 11-year old Becky Mason.
- 10.30 Play School, presented by Elizabeth Milbank and Brian Jameson. The story is the Cobweb Christmas Tree, by Shirley Dine.
- 10.55 Pigeon Street. A See-Saw programme for the very young (r).
- 11.10 Savage Companions. Part one of a two-episode adventure story about a young runaway who stows aboard a light aircraft.
- 12.00 Look Back with Mollie along the coastal paths of Devon and Cornwall in summer (r).
- 12.30 News headlines and weather.
- 12.35 The Woman and the Sea. A musical cartoon about the nasty Cyril Snow and his plot to capture the Earth.
- 1.30 Cuckoo! A Warner Brothers cartoon.
- 1.35 The Good Life. Christmas doesn't go according to plan for either the Gods or the Leadenhalls (r).
- 2.00 Film: Bridge on the River Kwai (1957) David Lean's classic observation of man under stress. Starring Alec Guinness. (r).
- 4.35 The Keith Harris Christmas Party. Fun and games and music from guests Shakin' Stevens and Stu Francis.
- 5.10 News with Richard Whitmore.
- 5.15 Final Score. David Icke with a classified check on the day's sports results.

- 5.25 Circus World Championships. Some 50 artists compete in four categories - Super Troupe, Foot Juggling, Hand Balancing and the Flying Trapeze.
- 6.25 The Paul Daniels Magic Christmas Show. Magic and comedy from the host; illusions from The Pandragons; acrobatics from the Five Star Endrasz Family; and Professor Al Carney with his mechanical man.
- 7.15 The Kenny Everett Television Show. A special edition of the eccentric Everett show in which even the dubious gags are done in the best possible taste.
- 7.50 Film: Rocky (1976) Boxing drama starring Sylvester Stallone. (r)
- 9.45 Lenny Henry presents "Laughing Matter". A selection of classic comedy clips.
- 10.25 News with Richard Whitmore.
- 10.35 Kiri and Friends. Kiri Te Kanawa introduces a programme of music and dance from Mozart to the Beatles. With baritone Thomas Allen; Wayne Sleep and Alessandra Fern in a Beatles ballet; Maria Robels (soprano); Richard Van Allen (baritone); and the 14-year old Greek pianist Dimitris Sgouras. The BBC Symphony Orchestra is conducted by Robin Stapleton.
- 11.35 The Treasure of Abbot Thomas. A ghost yarn adapted by John Bowen from the story by M. R. James. Michael Bryant stars as the Rev Justin Somerton, an Oxford don who becomes involved in a search for lost treasure. The clue to the hoard's whereabouts is contained in a cryptic message on a stained-glass window but Somerton refuses to take heed of the dire consequences promised if the treasure is disturbed. The music is composed by Geoffrey Burgon who was later responsible for the successful themes for Trinker Toller and Bridghead Revisited. Directed by Lawrence Gordon Clark (r).
- 12.15 Weather.



Shipshape: All aboard for an hour with Morecambe and Wise and party time with the crew from Minder (Both ITV)



BBC 2

- 12.45 Racing from Wincanton. Julian Wilson introduces coverage of the Daily Mirror Conditional Jockeys Championship Handicap Chase (1.00); the Coral Golden Hurdle (1.35); and the Better Bet Coral Steeplechase (2.05). The commentators are Peter O'Sullivan and Richard Pitman. Also included is Julian Wilson's review of the last flat racing season and his choice of Racehorse of the Year.
- 2.20 Joseph and Child. Did Joseph really play the part of mid-wife at Christ's birth? Arthur Dooley's sculpture shows Joseph holding the child he has helped deliver (r).
- 2.35 The Tale of Beatrix Potter, by John Hawksworth, based on the biographies by Margaret Lane. A lavish and entertaining biographical play about the life of the lonely woman whose book characters have brought joy to millions of children. With Penelope Walton as Beatrix Potter and Michael Horden as narrator (r).
- 4.30 The Book Game. The third of four conversations about books and writers with

- Anthony Burgess, Gernaise Green, Susan Hill and Adam Mars-Jones.
- 5.00 Shakespeare in Perspective. Russell Davies with a preview of tomorrow night's production of Shakespeare's comedy, Two Gentlemen of Verona, on BBC2.
- 5.35 Film: Mame (1974). Musical story of a nephew's life with an outrageous aunt. Starring Lucille Ball and Robert Preston. (r)
- 7.15 A Life in the Theatre: Green Frangos-Davies. The nonagenarian actress talks about her career, which covered 70 years, and of her favourite film.
- 8.05 News summary with subtitles.
- 8.10 Romeo and Juliet. Prokofiev's ballet performed by the Ballet of La Scala, Milan, with Carla Fracci and Rudolf Nureyev dancing the title roles and Dame Margot Fonteyn as Lady Capulet. The choreography is by Rudolf Nureyev, introduced by John Drummond.
- 10.25 Film: The Impress File (1965). Len Deighton's spy thriller starring Michael Caine, Nigel Green and Guy Doleman. (r) Ends at 12.15.

CHANNEL 4

- 10.35 Animated Fables. Antonin Mosse, director of the Cambridge Animation Festival, introduces three films. From Czechoslovakia, The King and the Goblin; from the United States, How the Zebra Came to Be; and the Canadian-made Cinderella Penguin.
- 11.05 Film: A Swann in May (1963) A young chorister restores an ancient church tradition. Starring Oliver Hicks. (r)
- 12.30 Film: The Adventures of Tom Sawyer (1938) John Weaver's version of the classic Mark Twain story. With Tommy Kelly and Jackie Moran. (r)
- 2.00 A Rough Stage. A documentary, narrated by Maureen Lipman, that examines the development of entertainment for the masses. With personal recollections and examples of great roots entertainment past and present the programme illustrates, among other things, what it was like to be a touring child dancer at the turn of the century and to sit in the roadshow section of a 1912 music hall audience.

- 3.30 Christmas Cartoon Carnival presented by Ray Allen.
- 4.00 Charlie Chaplin - The Little Tramp. Joel Grey introduces clips from Charlie Chaplin's earliest films including his first, the 1914-made Kid Auto Races in Venice.
- 4.45 The Sleeping Beauty. The Kirov Ballet's 200th anniversary production of Tchaikovsky's work, based on Perrault's fairy tale. The cast includes three of the Soviet Union's best dancers - Inna Kolpakova as Aurora, Serge Beresov as Prince Desire and Lubov Kunakova as the Lilac Fairy. With the orchestra of the Leningrad Theatre of Opera and Ballet, conducted by Victor Fedotov.
- 5.55 News headlines and weather followed by Home. Do we know enough about the cultural background of the non-British who have made our islands their home?
- 6.00 From Mao to Mozart. The story of Isaac Stern's 1978 tour of China.
- 9.30 Film: Remaldo and Clara (1977). A record of the 1975 and 1976 west coast of the United States tour by Bob Dylan. (r)
- 1.45 Closedown.

TV-am

- 7.30 The Adventures of Noddy. A special story for children.
- 8.00 TV-am's Boxing Day Show includes the 50 minute interview, first shown on Australian television, with Michael Parkinson talking to Princess Anne.
- 8.05 Roland's Winter Wonderland. Roland and Kevin are on the slopes in the Swiss Alps awaiting their first ski-ing lesson. Will they understand their polka and painstaking instructor?

ITV/LONDON

- 9.25 The Sooty Show. With Matthew Corbett and his puppets, Sooty, Sweep and Soo, in their own version of Red Riding Hood (r).
- 9.45 The Talking Parcel. An animated version of Gerald Durrell's story about a girl who finds a talking parcel on a bench. Among the voices are those of Frankie Jones, Mollie Sugden, Roy Kinnear and Windsor Davies.
- 10.25 Film: The Huge Bunny/Road Runner Movie (1979). Five shorts featuring the indelible rabbit and one with the equally resilient desert bird.
- 12.00 Take Over. Three teams, led by Jenny Lee-Wright, Richard O'Sullivan and Isla St Clair, test their skills at various hazardous exploits with the help of simulators. Brought Scott is the man who puts them in the driving seat.
- 1.00 News.
- 1.05 Racing from Kempton. Brough Scott introduces the Food Broker's Armour Hurdle (1.10); the Ladbrokes Christmas Hurdle (1.40); and the King George VI Chase (2.15). The commentators are John Oaksey and Graham Gould.
- 2.30 Film: The Scarlet Pimpernel (1982) starring Anthony Andrews and Jane Seymour. Colourful and well-acted version of Baroness Orczy's story of the seemingly effeminate Englishman who is on a visit to Paris at the time when French aristocrats' heads were the victims of the guillotine almost daily. His outwardly foppish exterior hides his real purpose - to save as many of the beleaguered aristocrats as possible. A strong supporting cast includes Ian McKellen as the wicked Citizen Chauvelin, the scourge of the aristocracy. Directed by Clive Donner.
- 5.15 News and sport.
- 5.30 Give Us a Clue. Celebrity mime games between two teams. Una Stubbs, Jess Asher, Jilly Cooper and Tracey Ullman against Lionel Blair, Tim Brooke-Taylor, Bob Secor and Russell Grant.
- 6.00 Coronation Street. Fairclough visits the lady who might be able to clear up the mystery surrounding husband Ian's death.
- 6.30 Film: The Spy Who Loved Me (1977). James Bond battles with a man who wants to rule an underwater kingdom. Starring Roger Moore. (r)
- 8.45 Eric and Ernie's Christmas Show. A Morecambe and Wise spectacular with an extensive guest list that includes Nigel Hawthorne, Felicity Kendal, Nanette Newman and Peter Stiller.
- 9.45 Minder Christmas Bonus. Excerpts from the best scenes of previous series of the popular comedy. With Dennis Waterman, George Cole and Glynn Edwards - mine host at the Winchester Club. The programme is set in the club where Terry is trying to make the Christmas lights, supplied by Arthur, work. Meanwhile, Arthur is receiving some stick from 'er indoors who is stranded at Heathrow, trying to leave the country on a holiday with a ticket supplied by Arthur.
- 10.45 News.
- 10.50 Des O'Connor Tonight. Music, song and laughter with Jimmy Tarbuck, Marti Caine and Charlie Caine.
- 12.00 Film: The Fortune (1974) starring Jack Nicholson and Warren Beatty as a pair of inept con-men. (r)
- 1.35 Night Thoughts from Muz Sinclair, assistant director, Christian Centre, Hildenborough Hall, Kent.

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Ducking: Orville and Keith Harris are hosts at a party (4.35pm)

- BBC 1** Wales: 11.00am-12.00pm Rugby Union: highlights of Saturday's game between Bridgend and Cardiff. 12.15pm-12.20pm News and weather. Northern Ireland: 12.15pm-12.20pm News and weather.
- S4C** Starts 12.35pm Noon. 12.50pm Wae Blt Chaeby. 1.45pm Film: Moneaur Huel's Holiday (Jocques Tati). 3.15pm Fragile Earth. 4.10pm Dwylo i Ffyn. 4.45pm Film: King of Comedy (Robert De Niro). 6.30pm Ser. 7.00pm Newyddion Sath. 7.15pm Hapdydd. 8.00pm Gwlad. 10.00pm Rhydd. 11.10pm It's Got to Be Funny Hasn't It. 12.10pm Closedown.
- ULSTER** As London except: 9.25pm-9.30pm Day Ahead. 12.00pm midnight Tales of the Unexpected: Death in the Morning (Carol Drinkwater). 12.30pm News at Bedtime. Closedown.

- ANGLIA** As London except: 12.00pm midnight Tales of the Unexpected: Death in the Morning (Carol Drinkwater). 12.30pm On the Feast of Stephen followed by Closedown.
- YORKSHIRE** 12.00pm midnight Tales of the Unexpected: Death in the Morning. 12.30pm Closedown.
- CENTRAL** As London except: 12.00pm midnight Tales of the Unexpected: Death in the Morning. 12.30pm Closedown.
- GRANADA** 12.00pm midnight Tales of the Unexpected: Death in the Morning. 12.30pm Closedown.

- TYNE TEES** As London except: 12.00pm midnight Tales of the Unexpected: Death in the Morning (Carol Drinkwater). 12.30pm Christmas. 12.35pm Closedown.
- TSW** As London except: 12.00pm midnight Tales of the Unexpected: Death in the Morning. 12.30pm Postscript. 12.35pm Closedown.
- CHANNEL** As London except: 12.00pm midnight Tales of the Unexpected: 12.30pm Weather and Closedown.
- SCOTTISH** As London except: 12.00pm midnight Tales of the Unexpected: Death in the Morning. 12.30pm Late Call. 12.35pm Closedown.

- HTV** As London except: 12.00pm midnight Tales of the Unexpected: Death in the Morning (Carol Drinkwater). 12.30pm A Carol for Christmas: Bristol Cathedral Choir. 12.35pm Weather and Closedown. 12.35pm News. 12.35pm Closedown.
- TVS** As London except: 12.00pm midnight Tales of the Unexpected: Death in the Morning (Carol Drinkwater). 12.30pm Company, followed by Closedown.
- BORDER** As London except: 12.00pm midnight Tales of the Unexpected: Death in the Morning (Carol Drinkwater). 12.30pm Closedown.
- GRAMPIAN** As London except: 12.00pm midnight Tales of the Unexpected: Death in the Morning. 12.30pm Reflections. 12.35pm Closedown.



Spooking: Cherie Lough (left) and Carol Drinkwater in Death in the Morning, a tale of the unexpected (Anglia)

AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE DECEPTIVE APPEARANCE OF A SAAB

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Wrong.
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All Saabs are the same at the back.
Wrong.
Saabs come as 3 or 5 door hatchbacks, with an enormous 56.5 cu ft of carrying capacity when the rear seat is folded. Or as a four door saloon with boot, which also features a practical folding seat and up to 53 cu ft luggage space.

All Saabs are the same inside.
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Even the Saab 900 GL comes with a heated driver's seat, twin internally adjustable mirrors, velour seats, front and rear seat belts, power steering and our unique heating and ventilation system. The GLs, and the GLi shown here, also feature central locking, 5-speed gearbox, rev counter and wide wheels with low profile tyres. And the Turbo has electric windows, tinted glass, electric mirrors, a heated passenger seat, and luxury upholstery. While on our top models you can even specify leather upholstery, cruise control and air conditioning.

All Saabs are the same at the back.
Wrong.
Saabs come as 3 or 5 door hatchbacks, with an enormous 56.5 cu ft of carrying capacity when the rear seat is folded. Or as a four door saloon with boot, which also features a practical folding seat and up to 53 cu ft luggage space.

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THE TIMES Saturday

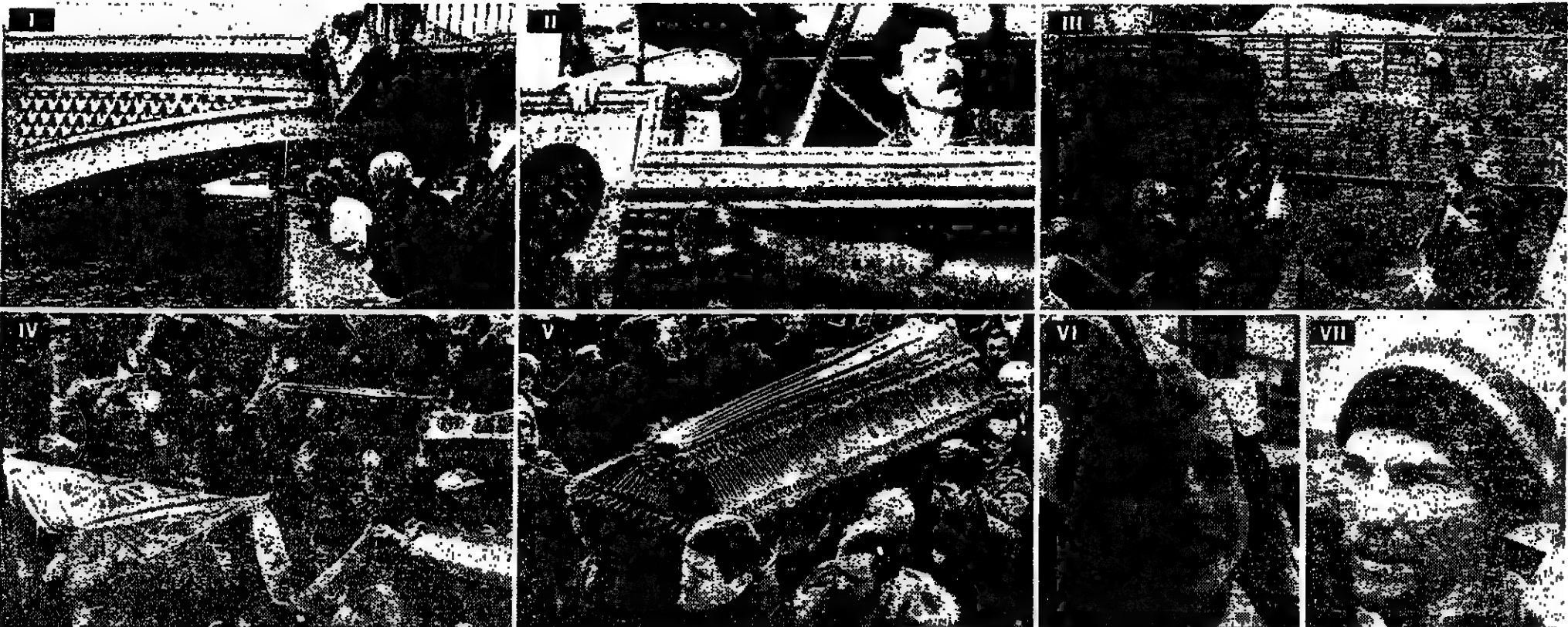
A stocking full of puzzles,
games, competitions and
a prize jumbo crossword

24-30 DECEMBER 1983 A WEEKLY GUIDE TO LEISURE, ENTERTAINMENT AND THE ARTS

Quiz of the year 1983



Nine princesses went walkabout this year. Can you match the faces to the royal legs below?



Seven pictures that enlivened the news in 1983. Can you remember what, or who, they were?

From the polls to Pole Pole, it has been
a year to remember. But Robin Young
wonders how much you've forgotten...

WEATHER OR NOT

- Which winter was the coldest in living memory?
a: 1980-1981
b: 1981-1982
c: 1982-1983?
- Which was the wettest June since 1879?
a: 1981
b: 1982
c: 1983?
- Which was the wettest April since 1940?
a: 1981
b: 1982
c: 1983?
- July 1983 was the hottest since:
a: 1982
b: 1976
c: 1975
d: 1659?
- On how many days in July 1983 were temperatures in England and Wales over 80°F (27°C)?
a: 26
b: 16
c: 10
d: 6?
- For nine weeks in 1983 Britain had 2½ times the normal amount of rain. Did this wet period start in mid:
a: March
b: April
c: May?
- Traffic on the M40 in Buckinghamshire was disrupted on May 21, 1983. Was it by:
a: molten tarmac in a temperature of 76°F
b: three-inch hailstones
c: ½ of an inch of rain
d: 3 inches of snow?
- One day in 1983 was the coldest ever recorded on Earth. Was it:
a: January 10
b: April 1
c: July 21
d: December 14?
- Which of these is not thought to have influenced the weather in 1983:
a: El Nino
b: El Chichon
c: La Camorra
d: Le Mistral?
- What defended London against the weather for the first time on February 2?

- caused by Henry, a Jack Russell terrier?
- What world record was claimed for Zeya, a Siberian tigress?
- In what guise did David Agulnik astonish Princess Michael of Kent?
- What did Pole Pole mean?
- What have the stone curlew and the purple emperor to do with defence policy?
- What animal was reproved by a London magistrate?
- What 90 per cent ruination was effected by *Andricus quercus calicis*?
- What was variously said to be a puma, a mongrel, and a lurcher?

WHO SAID ABOUT WHAT?

- "I left home last week in very unbecoming circumstances."
- "The worst national disaster for 100 years."
- "No one gives a fig for the Ten Commandments any more but unhappily society disregards them at its peril."
- "What is wrong with the world today is greed, immorality and depravity."
- "It's because I'm so very ordinary really."
- "Nobody believed in the story of a little brown man dressed in a sheet carrying a bean pole."
- "The archive, in fact, is not only a collection of documents which can be individually tested: it coheres as a whole."
- "The Parkinsonism was really the clinching point."
- "This is a military operation. It would need three armoured tanks, a couple of helicopters with machine guns and about 600 men from 2 Para to stop us."
- "A little English phenomenon of no special interest."

MURDERS

- Identify the instrument of death:
a: a Harvey Wallbanger, a Mickey Finn, Pernod on the

- about it?"
- With regard to whose murder was the score Hofdiemel 60 votes, Sussmayer 39 votes, Salleri 28 votes? Explain.

QUOTABLE QUOTES

- Who said:
- "I just cannot stand hot air."
 - "I find so much to emulate in Winston."
 - "I am not prepared to stagger from compromise to compromise."
 - "I will continue to be the essence of sweet reasonableness."
 - "There is no definition of the poverty line."
 - "I think I could handle a landslide."
 - "I had a caesarian myself. I know about it."
 - "I cannot accept responsibility for those who strike themselves out of a job."
 - "I have got one or two single gloves at home which I kept in the hope of finding the other half of the pair

- again. Now I shall be able to send them to the company. As you prosper yourself you ought to do something for others."
- "It reminds me of the old song, 'Maggie May'."

GOLD-DIGGERS OF 1983

- How did Diane Bilanelli get about 453m?
- What did Dr Sally ride?
- Who said: "It will be port wine next time."
- Miss World 1975 became Bruce Forsyth's third wife. Can you name her?
- Where did Sabine Meyer cause disharmony?
- Who said: "I was not aware that political expediency was sufficient grounds for an abortion under the 1967 Act?"
- Who went to Newnham College, Cambridge, for three years to become "a more marketable commodity"?

- What did Stephanie Grant do with her four A-levels?
- Who was reported to have won two distinctions at school, one for best-kept hamster and one for "services to others"?
- Who said: "I gave up hockey as soon as possible and I didn't like netball because I used to get wolf whistles because of my short skirts?"

POLITICS

- Who called whom "the plutonium blonde"?
- Who was described as "a constitutional enormity"?
- Who likened the Communist Party to the Society of Friends as "self-effacing people who did a lot to keep the flag flying"?
- Who considered whom incapable of knocking the skin off a rice pudding?
- Who was described as "a dangerous and unstable figure with a node on the rising Uranus"?
- How did Esmund Bevan distinguish himself politically on February 24, 1983?
- Who recommended that in the event of nuclear war farmers should drive their cows into deep lane ditches and throw tarpaulins over them?
- Who thought whom "a good socialist with many admirable qualities - it is a great pity these are marred by his macho heterosexism"?
- Who was sacked as a columnist by *Tribune*?
- Who considered a Ford Sierra 1.6 "a smashing car"?

DIED IN 1983

- Who...
- ...was beneficiary in 132 wills and left bequests to 20 women?
 - ...was also known as Ronald Wycherley?
 - ...choked to death on a bottle cap?
 - ...bequeathed the Holy Shroud of Turin to the Vatican?

- ...had been described as "a fat man whose gift for public suffering had enlisted the sympathy of a sentimental people"?
- ...cooked out?
- ...was brother of Canada's first Canadian-born Governor-General?
- ...died of MND, also known as Lou Gehrig's disease?
- ...came to fame via a girl's eye sliced in half by a razor and a dead donkey on a grand piano?

- ...loved cats and tried to kill his father?
- ...collapsed at the despatch box?
- ...was "the greatest foreign novelist since Joseph Conrad who has paid us the compliment of writing in the English tongue"?
- ...was twice International Reporter of the Year?

Answers on
page 24

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Wednesday 28th December to
Saturday 7th January inclusive

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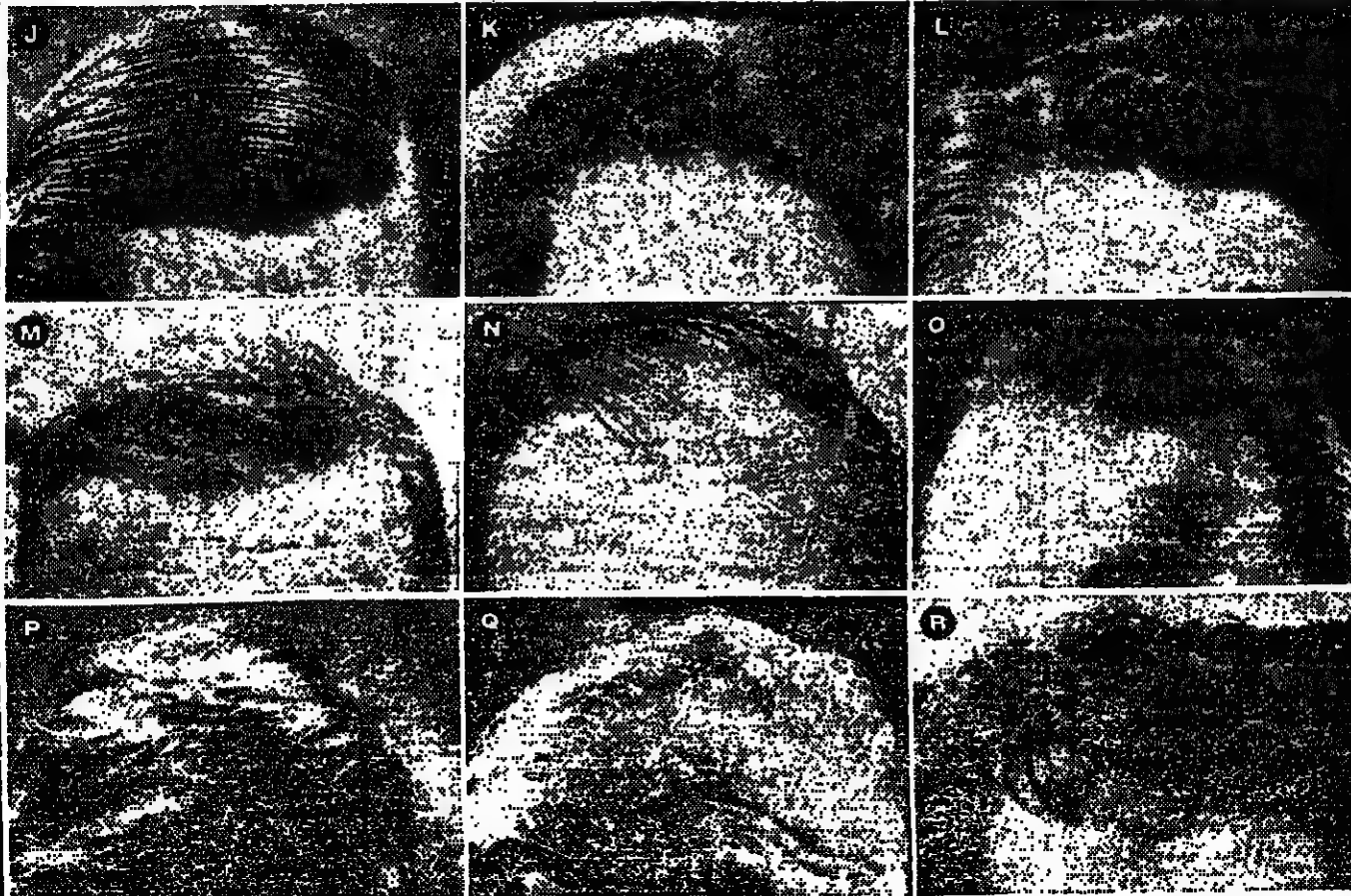
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MYSTERY HEADLINES

- Can you remember the stories?
- Use of royal scarlet reclaimed
 - Kelpers bitter over visit
 - Faust sung by pop star too much for Moscow
 - No cream sauce for Mitterrand
 - Massacre of the innocents
 - Tories 'reign in droves'
 - Head's wife puts cat among the pigeons
 - Boat race brings best of British to Manhattan
 - Desert troops forbidden to wear medal
 - Woman who knew spy stood in local poll
 - Sierra campaign in trouble
 - Siberian mammoth goes to the dogs

ANIMALS

How did "a rat come to the aid of a sinking ship"?
Whose death by football in Toronto led to a "rational" reaction?
Which unprecedented was shared by Captain...
...Wayward Lad, Silver Beck and Ashley...
...heaster was



Nine crowning glories. Can you tell to whom they belong?

TRAVEL

Edited by Shona Crawford Poole

Adudadu abroad on Greenland's icy mountain

Old meets new in the majestic wilderness where the conquering heroes are the dogs

Mr Kelly Nicholaisen is a genial and optimistic Dane who would probably thrive as a salesman of sand to Arabs or submarines to the Swiss. His current speciality is winter holidays in Greenland. He waves a large, thickly mitted fist at the stupendous view from his hotel window across the roof-tops of Angmagssalik in east Greenland and cheerfully declares that spring has arrived.

The days are lengthening as March progresses, the view is often clear across the fjord and there are fewer sudden, sniping storms from the north.

But to a European eye, Kelly's springtime looks suspiciously like a winter that is reluctant to let go of its hold. The mountains are thickly quilted with snow and the late-afternoon temperatures turn breath to frost. A huddle of vessels anchored inconspicuously in the ice mark the point where land and sea meet. But for anyone seeking tranquillity who can appreciate the motionless power of an iceberg and dramatic landscapes wrought by extreme cold, Greenland is the place.

Our party of six was there to

side across the majestic wilderness in the traditional Greenland way - on dog-drawn sledges. It is a land little changed since the first explorers arrived; the world's biggest island with a central ice cap 10,000ft thick ringed by mountains and a widely indented coast. A population the size of Perth's is spread across a country 52 times the size of Denmark, which includes Greenland within its kingdom although home rule was granted in May 1979. It is little touched by tourism but is making an effort through enthusiasts like Kelly to attract visitors to its stark scenery and the distinctive way of life in the small hunting communities on the east Greenland coast.

"Coast" hardly describes this particular meeting between land and sea. From the small, twin-engined aircraft flying high

between Reykjavik in Iceland and Kulusuk we looked down on the Denmark Strait. At first the cover appeared thin and unconsolidated, then it became dotted with squadrons of icebergs that had fractured away from the polar zone. Inshore the ice formed an impenetrable armour against a land where green is a conspicuously absent colour.

At Kulusuk the aircraft touched down beneath a high cliff upon which stand the domes that are a strand of Dewline, the American radar system employed to detect any Russian mischief passing overhead. A Greenland helicopter clattered the party across cold spurs of empty land and deeply frozen fjords to Angmagssalik.

The hotel is firmly anchored to its hilltop, shutters at the ready. Inside it was warm and comfortably appointed in cheerful Scandinavian style and there was a fine view of the village and a cobweb of sledge tracks running to infinity across the ice. From here it would be a step back in time, with all the movement dog-powered.

Kelly pocketed his cordless telephone. He has been "negotiating" with the local weather station. Tomorrow the conditions would be good, he said, the dogs would be ready to start. A dog's life in the periglacial sense must have been coined for the Eskimo breed. They sleep in the open through the fierce winter, insulated by their thick, shaggy coats and turning to motionless lumps on the ground as the snow builds over them.

The weathermen kept their bargain and next day was brittle clear. Ten sledges, the largest number the village had seen for years, assembled on the fjord and as time approached for a mass start the dogs grew more and more excited. The Greenland sledges have been developed over the centuries into a tough, functional vehicle, each one pulled by a team of six or eight dogs. The passenger languishes comfortably on a skin rug while the driver rides between the steering struts or walks when the going gets steep, urging on the dogs with Greenlandic oaths and an occasional crack of the whip.

Sledges are still in use but modern Greenlanders have a taste for the fast, motorized sleds that scream and bounce

across the landscape at four times the best speed of a dog-drawn sledge. When we were overtaken by a trio of these rowdy vehicles I felt as if I was travelling up the M1 in a sedan chair. A sledge is certainly more manoeuvrable. The dogs scamper purposefully along on the flat and tumble headlong downhill at the sledge's throat, to overtake the team, forcing the driver to put all his weight on the elasticated metal claw at the stern that bites into the snow and slows progress.

A half-day introductory dash across the fjord enabled visitors to get their sledge legs, followed by a day tour in Ikata where the village livelihood is from hunting bears and seals. This journey included a sledge descent of a frozen waterfall. Nervous souls may get off and walk.

The next two days covered a tour to Tinitiglag, another hunting community on Sermilik Fjord, the birthplace of great icebergs that break away from the glaciers of the ice cap and make their ponderous way out to sea.

The sledge convoy was greeted outside the village by a large crowd of children, noisy, friendly and eager to investigate the visitors. They live in a cluster of sturdy wooden houses, dotted around a hillside overlooking the frozen fjord. Their hardy and fragile life is based on a mainstay of seal hunting, but this is now threatened by conservation-minded folk who are campaigning against the use of seal skins for coats and for the trinket market.

It is inconceivable to the villagers that their hunting activities could endanger the seal colonies, but without the income from the skins they fear their own community might be endangered. There are other



Dogged determination: Huskies haul the sledges across the waste. We spent the night in a hut that was completely buried in snow. Kelly and his helpers dug their way down to the door and soon the chimney, protruding above the snow surface, was smoking busily and the invisible hut became snug.

Also visiting was a party from the British Schools Exploring Society known particularly to the locals as *skolebørn*. The term is entirely polite and dates back to the time when Gino Watkins, a very well brought up British explorer, devoted a lot of time to the Greenland coast. Wherever he went he introduced himself to the locals with a polite "How do you do?" which they turned into a quaint noun that has stuck ever since.

Details of the 10-day holiday are available from Twickenham Travel, 84 Hampton Road, Twickenham, Middlesex (01-898 9881). The 2000 package includes all flights, bed and breakfast in Reykjavik and all meals and accommodation in Greenland. Thermal boots and underwear are recommended.



more sinister threats to the traditions in this isolated corner of the world. Urban values have crept in and alcoholism has become a serious problem despite price levels that amount to a prohibition. Heavy drinking in a community where rifles are a commonplace has also produced an alarmingly high murder rate.

But this is not at all an undercurrent in Tinitiglag, where the village veterans plead for a return to the old values. They say there is strong political pressure now to turn the tide on an era represented by videos, smart fashion, rowdy skidoo and cordless telephones.

Published by the British Maritime Research Bureau. Two and a half million people go there in a year. There are never fewer than 70,000 foreigners in the town, the deputy mayor, my host, said.

Nevertheless the question has begun to loom: Whether Benidorm? Representatives of Arabian oil megamagnates, in town recently seeking undertakings into which they might pour some money, left without investing anything. Their spokesman said that Benidorm had gone as far as it could as a centre of mass tourism. It was time to expand in another direction, catering for a more demanding clientele with a greater purchasing power. Well, that's what the man said.

So there may yet be a theatre and opera house, a Benidorm Literary Prize and Festival of the Arts. But not in summer time. Long live Benidorm as it is, I say. May it continue to draw the millions who enjoy it as it is, and would go somewhere else if it did not exist.

Thomson offer 28 nights at Los Panchos apartments for £115 has 28 nights half-board in a 3-star hotel for £218. Viajes Alameda on the Avenida Pineda de Loe is a useful letting agency too. Winter rents start at £25 a week behind the front and rise to £35 for one overlooking the sea. Independent flights to Alicante cost £180 for a scheduled flight or about £90 on one of the bargains available. Britany Ferries (Plymouth, 0752-263388) have a car ferry service from Plymouth to Santander, whence Benidorm is two days' easy driving and one day's hard. Recommended reading: *Benitz* Travel Guide to the Costa Blanca.

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Fashionable forays along the Riviera

Tobias Smollett, Scottish physician and writer, let the cat out of the bag when he published *Travels Through France and Italy* in 1766. Three years earlier, heartbroken after his only daughter's death from consumption, this Dumbarton-shire gentleman left England to spend 10 months in Nice where he alternately praised and damned the locals and their habits and appalled them by bathing in the sea. His journal tickled the fancy of the English aristocracy who set out to pass the winter in what promised to be a temperate climate amid beauty and history.

Smollett offered a perfect deal. No holiday brochure could have done better. What Englishman could fail to be enticed by his description of a view from Nice ramparts? "The plain presents nothing but gardens, full of green trees, loaded with oranges, lemons, citrons, and bergamots, which make a delightful appearance; all sorts of sallading, and pot-herbs, in perfection; and plats of roses, carnations, ranunculus, anemones, and daffodils, blowing in full glory, with such beauty, vigour, and perfume, as no flower in England ever exhibited."

And of the climate: "Many people, even of condition, at Nice, have no fire in their chambers, during the whole winter." And for sightseers: "There are considerable monuments of antiquity in the neighbourhood," which he then described at length.

Tourism had arrived on the Riviera. And it has grown ever since. At first the magnet was the winter climate. Throughout the nineteenth century and up until the First World War, this was the season when European rulers and nobility gathered in the construction of the Promenade des Anglais by the British inhabitants in 1822 and accessibility with the arrival of the railway in 1863. Later, painters came, attracted by the strong light and colours. Renoir, Bonnard, Picasso, Chagall, Matisse lived mainly in Nice for over 30 years. Their legacy is the glorious museums of their works that pepper the coastal and hilltop villages.

In 1922, a certain Mr and Mrs Murphy, a wealthy American couple who were the inspiration for the characters of the Divers in Scott Fitzgerald's *Tender is the Night*, were staying at Cole Porter's villa at Cap d'Antibes. They did the unthinkable: bathed and lounged on the sand in the full sun. The Young society followed their lead and the tables were turned. Where previously business was slack and prices low during the hot season, hotel charges and villa rents now soared in the summer when the bright young things and their hangers-on arrived. And it has been the same ever since. In the winter, the Promenade and gaming tables see action only from elderly travellers escaping from the northern cold.

Tobias Smollett can have had little idea that his journal would be the springboard for two centuries of British tourism. And Augustus Hare, another literary visitor to these parts, might be equally surprised at how little the villages and hillside have suffered since his forays into the countryside during a winter sojourn at Menton.

This is especially true of the area between Nice and the concrete 468-acre principality of Monaco. The lower corniche road wiggles between the steep hills and the azure Mediterranean that gave the area its name. Instead of the ubiquitous French camping sites and hotels that litter most of the Riviera, the old and elegant, modern villas line the road and dots the hillside, their walls festooned with crimson and purple bougainvillea.

Neither King Leopold II of Belgium, the Duke of Connaught nor Somerset Maugham changed the little fishing cove of St-Jean on the isthmus of Cap Ferrat very much. Locals sit over a vin rouge in dimly lit cafes along the narrow streets, a

stone's throw from the sumptuous, overfilled Villa Ephrussi de Rothschild. Baroness Ephrussi, a Rothschild by birth and taste, bought Tiepolo ceilings, eighteenth-century Parisian paneling, Florentine doors and anything else that came her way. She continued to amass booty while the villa was being constructed, so confusing her numerous architects that on completion it was found that not one had remembered to put in a staircase.

Villefranche lies further along the coast. Tunnelled and stepped alleys smelling of garlic, tomatoes and *herbes de Provence* lead down to a harbour lined with restaurants and cafes. Their menus tempt passers-by with fixed price gourmet meals for £6-£8, or with *La Belle Bouillabaisse* - an exotic fish stew, complicated to prepare and a marathon to eat.

Up in the hills, the medieval villages are hardly changed. And even the remotest boasts a family-run, inexpensive Provencal food - more fish soup, hare, lamb and lemon tart. Eze, behind La Turbie, is the nearest and so a bit too popular. But

Pablo Picasso: Settled from the Chateau Eza at the top of the village the views are breathtaking. Tiny balconies jut out from the castle wall over a sheer drop of 1,300ft to the sea. Further into the hills, up narrow zig-zagging roads, one sometimes takes a short cut through a cliff, are the more isolated villages of Peillon and Peille. And, perched above Menton, St Agnes claims to be the highest village in the area. Looking across the valley to the lush mountains, their slopes glowing with flowering broom in June, Smollett's praise is still justified: "The plantations extend to the very tops of the hills, interspersed with villages, castles, churches, and villas. Indeed the whole Riviera is ornamented in the same manner, except in such places as admit of no building, nor cultivation."

Louise Nicholson

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Bingo! Bango! Bravo! It's Benidorm

Benidorm, in October, is not a bad place to be. The waves of Wallies, as the travel industry gratefully calls the summer visitors that provide these stories of wild and riotous excesses in the town, have receded. Those whom the Spaniards call "the third age," *las personas mayores*, are trickling in for the late vacation or the long winter stay. *Adios* to the *domesticated*, *when los desdentados* is the cry.

Evidence of the great occupation lingers in the shop signs and the menus outside the popular bars and restaurants. Twenty years ago the menus were written in Spanish, however internationalized the dishes. "Camarero, what are *croquetas de jamon*?" "Croquetas of sea-wolf, senior. Fishcakes." But there is no time now for such refinements. *Empenad* al *Duque de Cornwall* and *Biftec* *al estilo de pastor* are plain cornish pasty and shepherd's pie.

But, as my hosts pointed out with some emphasis, there are dozens of places for those that want them where one can eat good Spanish food. Ask the nearest expatriate.

They took me to La Pergola, a very up-market restaurant on the north end of the waterfront. Its windows look back along the sweep of the bay that brings the millions, the seven kilometres of golden sand of the Playa de Levante, a darker patch representing the village from which the town grew.

In October the days are hot and the evenings balmy. It was seven o'clock when I arrived. I joined early drinkers in the Bar Antwerpea, in time to see a



Peace at last: A quiet stroll by the boat harbour in Benidorm

pleasant touch of human kindness. The four-piece orchestra stuck up the Wedding March. Everyone smiled and applauded. The couple thus honoured exchanged looks of beatific sheepishness and the moment entered their store of good times.

There'd be an orchestra. *Bingo! Bango! Bango!* Playing for us. *To dance the tango. And people would clap. When we arose. At her sweet face. And my new clothes.* A haunting little poem by Scott Fitzgerald which stuck in my head at first reading and has refused to leave it.

In the pace of its development Benidorm resembles the gold rush towns of California and Australia, though its gold pours down from the sky. The difference is that those towns yearned upwards, and built opulent houses and theatres for Sarah Bernhardt and Macready and Jenny Lind and Lola Montez to appear in. Benidorm has stuck to its brief: nothing too cerebral. Gorgeous sun and sea by day; at night barbecues, discotheques, nightclubs and restaurants and such other fleshly mischief as is desirable and procurable; to which, in autumn and winter, will succumb bingo, whist drives, old

time dancing, courses in rug weaving and flower arrangement.

The target of entertainment is the audience reflected by the international top ten television programmes and in full cry is the Benidorm Palace, an entertainment centre said to have the biggest stage in the world.

Streams and flashes of coloured lights poured over the audience. There were only four players in the band, but thanks to what Churchill called the lights of a perverted science they were making enough noise for 400. The audience sat at little tables drinking the sweet sparkling wine such places sell. Among them, making their way between the tables with halting gait, I saw quite a number of old Brits. The music could not have meant much to them. Perhaps they were waiting for the barebreasted dancers and the accomplished transvestite who would imitate Marilyn Monroe and Edith Piaf.

Benidorm is the most popular resort town in the world, according to figures

published by the British Maritime Research Bureau. Two and a half million people go there in a year. There are never fewer than 70,000 foreigners in the town, the deputy mayor, my host, said.

Nevertheless the question has begun to loom: Whether Benidorm? Representatives of Arabian oil megamagnates, in town recently seeking undertakings into which they might pour some money, left without investing anything. Their spokesman said that Benidorm had gone as far as it could as a centre of mass tourism. It was time to expand in another direction, catering for a more demanding clientele with a greater purchasing power. Well, that's what the man said.

So there may yet be a theatre and opera house, a Benidorm Literary Prize and Festival of the Arts. But not in summer time. Long live Benidorm as it is, I say. May it continue to draw the millions who enjoy it as it is, and would go somewhere else if it did not exist.

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REVIEW Theatre in 1983

Closing curtain on a dramatic year

Looking reproachfully at me as I write this piece is the still unsorted harvest of a year's theatregoing: a boxful of programmes from Stepney, Sheffield, Shaftesbury Avenue, and a good many places in between. Lying on top, for some reason, is one from a pub in the Mile End Road. I remember that night: the audience consisted of eight punks and me. Another one, sticking out at the corner, is from the Glasgow Citizens' and must be that Jacobean comedy in which most of the characters were dressed as Hollywood stars, from Jean Harlow to Mickey Mouse.

And that sleek one that reads simply "Y" dates back to a first night I can remember little about apart from my dazed companion repeating, "I just can't believe this is happening". George Melly sitting behind us in the stalls with mouth agape as if in speechless incredulity.

Other programmes are covered with scribbles which should revive forgotten delights and horrors at a glance, if I could only make out what they referred to. Bill Tidy's *The Great Eric Ackroyd Disaster* at the Oldham Coliseum has some of the most illegible jottings: it is hard to write properly when you are shaking with laughter and know that the next cue for

hysteria will be on you within seconds. Eric was, in his creator's words, a genius whose simple negligence caused "events which make other major natural catastrophes (Mrs Thatcher, Mr Foot, Roy Jenkins) appear to be inconsequential". As champion smoke-mixer in a fictitious northern town, he was responsible for maintaining the air at its correct degree of foulness: a moment's inattention, resulting in a burst of clean air, nearly killed everybody and wrecked the town's chances in the annual Industrial Coughing Championship at Wembley.

Disgraced, stripped of his bib and brace like an officer's stripes, and exiled (horror of horrors) to London, his decline and fall followed the primrose path of adulation as a real-life northerner - getting his own chat show, dabbling in politics, offering trips to the Queen at her own garden party and becoming hopelessly addicted to an alcoholic liquid detergent called Soapo. As far as I remember, he ended up in St Devious's Hospice for Soapoholics, being looked after by some very peculiar nuns.

As far as comebacks from disaster are concerned, this year's goes uncontested to Peter O'Toole. The disaster in this case, you may remember,

was a misproduced *Macbeth* at the Old Vic in 1980 that was very hard to sit through with a straight face. The comeback was as Tanner in *Man and Superman* at the Haymarket last winter. O'Toole not only had tremendous comic panache but a wild visionary quality that no recent actor playing the role has achieved.

His movements were ungainly, he murdered Shaw's prose rhythms, his voice cracked on almost every sentence, but you watched him in fascination and increasing delight: he knew just what he was doing, even if the rest of the cast seemed not to. Dwarfing everyone, he created up ad-lib with a specially impudent ad-lib and, on the narrow Haymarket stage, played the Act 2 scene with Tavy as a cricket match that had the poor lad as tensely defensive as a slip fieldman in his first Test. I think you can look forward to his forthcoming Professor Higgins with apprehension and relief.

Another, supremely dignified comeback was made in April by the 79-year-old Vivian Ellis, whose *Mr Cinders* revived in the West End after 54 years, had a fizzing opening night at the Fortune. Still in excellent shape, if reports are right, this originally large-scale musical got triumphant second wind as a

pocket-size show starting at the King's Head. Some very gracious actresses from the age of Binnie Hale and Bobby Howes arrived in their limousines, and Mr Ellis rose amidst cheers at the end for a speech full of wit and mischief, pausing on the way only to whisper in my ear how nice it was to see a critic enjoying himself.

At my local theatre, the Royal Court, I have specially grateful memories of Caryl Churchill's *Fen*. The Joint Stock Company's stay of some weeks in a remote Fenland village last year produced a moving, sometimes grotesque, sometimes frightening sequence of scenes showing a society that had not left the irrational beliefs, terrors and brutalities of rural communities very far in the past.

The play, and actress Cecily Hobbs, would also win an award for the most hilarious, if hair-raising, story heard on the London stage this year: a seemingly endless tale of how a wandering boy got drawn into a gruesome axe-murder plot that included an adulterous body buried under the murderer's name and a corpse getting out of its coffin to make a cup of cocoa.

The sly, gritty and resilient George Hearn, a Stratford-on-Avon man, would have taken

all that in his stride. Some of his stories were just as astonishing, and fortunately before he died in 1977 at the age of 98 his grandson's wife Angela taped his memories, which she shaped into a best-selling book called *The Dillen*. This summer the Royal Shakespeare Company staged it as a peripatetic outdoor performance.

The whole audience tramped past the Dirty Duck into the RSC's shack studio for the first scenes, through Holy Trinity Churchyard, up on to the east pebble-picking on the banks below; along the disused railway track to see George getting his first job as a brickie; and then into a tent for a horribly vivid evocation of his time on the Western Front.

It was such an experience that few of us managed any trenchant criticisms afterwards, and even my programme seems to have fallen by the wayside, probably on the torchlight procession back through the Stratford streets. It doesn't seem to be in the box, though among that lot one could hardly be sure. But who would spend an evening clearing out a programme book when he could go to the theatre instead?

Anthony Masters

Ring out the old with Solti and the probing Priestley



Shadowy success: Carol Maness as Electra in Trevor Nunn's *Idomeneo* at Glyndebourne

Priestley and Wagner, who might sound a little like a successful firm of solicitors, were the key names of the operatic year. Priestley delivered the Report on Covent Garden - and the RSC as well, although that section got rather less publicity. Wagner received considerable exposure.

Even back in January it looked as though the *Ring* cycle in Bayreuth was going to be the event of the year. And so it turned out. Early on it became known as the "British" *Ring*, partly in reaction to Chereau's staging last time round at the Festspielhaus and partly because of the weight of the forces involved: the production team of Peter Hall and Bill Dudley, Georg Solti (a naturalized Briton) in the pit and half a dozen UK singers.

Reports of international friction before the first night, which tried to make out that Bayreuth was more like a rerun of Golditz than Richard Wagner's opera house, were much exaggerated. The results were indeed controversial, but it has not been generally noted that the spearhead of the attack on Hall's staging came from the American and French critics: the reaction from the German press, as from the British, covered a wide spectrum of opinion.

For Solti there was little but praise. Hildegard Behrens as Brunhilde delivered the most exciting singing I heard this year. And I will stick to my forecast of last July that this will develop into a memorable *Ring* especially now that relations between Britons and Bavarians are better. Solti just has to discover the Siegfried of his dreams.

Back in Britain there was more Wagner and more *Ring*, with two new native cycles beginning in the same week at the end of October. That was an unprecedented occurrence. The Welsh National Opera began at the beginning with *Rheingold* and the English National Opera opted for a more popular start in the shape of *Halkin*.

Critical reaction to both was

mutated. But *Rings* are not to be judged on the basis of a single evening and the ENO, in particular, was hampered by the loss of its chosen Brunhilde, Linda Easter Grey, for most performances.

And so to Clive Priestley and his massive report commanded by the Government. During the period it was compiled, with Priestley's investigations probing into every corner of the Opera House, Covent Garden was not having a happy time.

The 1982/83 season was a poor one, with so many publicized cancellations, and there might have been some trepidation in advance of Priestley's findings. But in fact Priestley came out and said what many of us have been saying for years: if Britain wants an international opera house then it must be prepared to pay for one. And he said it most clearly and cogently, adding correctly that a cut-price operation was useless.

Priestley must have cheered up the ROH board no end, so much so that it acted swiftly on some of his criticisms - the main recommendations - look like being implemented by the Government - and have even taken on one member of the inquiry team in a private consultancy capacity. The recent new production of *Boris* also demonstrated an imagination and spirit of adventure which has been too often lacking in Bow Street.

Certainly there has been no lack of adventure in St Martin's Lane where the ENO has continued with a policy of putting on as many new productions as possible, several of little-performed works with costs either cut to the bone or shared with other houses. This might appear to be living dangerously, but under the Elder-Pountney regime - both in their mid-thirties - controversy is deliberately courted. Some operas like *Rienzi* - more Wagner - you wish you had never dreamt up.

The clear success of the Glyndebourne season, although

no one would have noticed it from most of the press reviews, was the new production of Mozart's *Idomeneo*, which marked Trevor Nunn's debut in opera. *Idomeneo*, which has always held a very special place in Glyndebourne repertoire, was staged quasi-Japanese style in a cool, clear light. Beautiful to look at and beautifully conducted by Bernard Haitink, Nunn himself made total dramatic sense of what can be the least dramatic of operas.

The regional companies, apart from the occasional foray, I could observe only from afar. The WNO, under Brian MacMaster, still gives us a better taste than any other theatre in this country, lyric or non-lyric, of European stagecraft, with Pinter's version of *Carmen* as the extreme example. But the WNO virtually sold out at the massive Dominion in London earlier this month and that is MacMaster's due reward.

Scottish Opera, now run by John Cox, has been battling fiercely against those who would have it cut down in stature and, thank goodness, it appears to be winning. Opera North, also under a new director, Nicholas Payne, looks as though it is beginning to improve its casting which was not always satisfactory during its fledgling days.

Finally, a deferential bow to La Scala, Milan, which for the opening night of its season, December 7 as ever, made an unashamed return to old-fashioned, opera spectacle. *Turandot* was the work, after many a change during the course of the year, and Franco Zeffirelli, returning to the house which has seen so many of his successes over the past quarter of a century, put on a super show. A dash of Hollywood? Certainly. But the orchestra under Maszel sounded magnificent and soprano Ghena Dimitrova in this house, which is so sympathetic to the voice, did for Puccini what Behrens had earlier done for Wagner.

John Higgins

THEATRE QUIZ 1983

Can you put a name to the players and plays?

These seven photographs were taken from stage productions in London and Stratford-upon-Avon between October 1982 and September 1983. Give yourself one mark for each of the actors you can identify; one mark for the name of the play; one more for the author; and the final one for the theatre where the production took place (in one case, two theatres). That gives a maximum of 33 marks, but we reckon that 30 or more is worth a few curtain calls. The photographs were selected from *Theatre Year 1983* by Donald Cooper (Methuen, £5.95).



1. A cardinal switch from George to 'Rory'



2. Seems to be a case of one nose trying to get up another



3. Ludwig contemplates an extra symphony



4. Alf from Wapping as Len from Lancashire, originally Naples



5. An air from a shoestring, or what the professor said to the student



6. Director, leading lady and burglar from farce-within-a-farce



7. Could almost be Ernie Wise trying to sell one of his plays to Eric

Quiz answers

Facts and figures of the year in view

Weather
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THE TIMES

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

London dealers ready to venture forth

The Stock Exchange Council has taken another step toward the brave new world of negotiated brokers' commissions and rules for International Dealers (IDs). They will make their overdue entry in March: arguably the absence of such beings has already cost the London market many millions of turnover since the abolition of foreign exchange controls in November 1979.

For good reasons - they include cost as well as expertise - British financial institutions have channelled their restricted appetite for overseas stocks through American and Japanese brokers. If London is to build a reputation as an international stock market, it needs its IDs dealing as freely as possible in overseas securities, as much as it needs a greater involvement here by American and Japanese brokers who see the freedom American pension funds have been given to invest abroad as a huge new business opportunity.

The Stock Exchange Council is treading warily, endeavouring to keep IDs at arm's length from the Stock Exchange proper and at the same time to keep them on a tight rein.

"In recognition of the fact that IDs will be dealing in an international market largely over the telephone and with professional counterparties," the notice says, "they should not be permitted to have a presence on the floor."

They will be limited liability companies, which may be owned by one member firm, or a consortium of firms, which may be made up of broking firms, jobbing firms and non-member firms (a gesture to London's new spirit of internationalism) provided a member or members have more than 50 per cent of the equity. An ID may deal only as a principal, ie as if it were a true blue London jobber, and as it is a jobber by another name its dealing book is free from the constraints of stamp duty. There is a word of caution:

"As an ID will be dealing as a principal, care must be taken to ensure that all transactions are undertaken only with

professional or more sophisticated private investors. The council believes that most private clients are best served by employing a broker as an agent, required to deal in the best interests of his clients."

It is worth emphasizing that the Stock Exchange Compensation Fund "will not normally cover transactions or any other activity by an ID." Nonetheless there might be losses that could not be entirely ignored by the Stock Exchange: "The discretionary nature of the Fund may allow compensation in exceptional circumstances."

Other rules seem pretty strict. IDs will have to maintain at all times a minimum liquidity margin of £500,000. A firm wanting to set up an ID must first submit to the Council "a detailed business plan showing the capital structure and arrangements for management, administration, accounting and internal control. A member firm which deals with an ID must report 'for surveillance purposes' all 'bargains to the Official Lists Office as soon as possible."

IDs will deal on a cash against delivery basis and are not able to take deposits or deal on margin. IDs are not allowed to become members of overseas stock exchanges.

The Council has also made it a rule that "Unless the Council otherwise decides, the censure, suspension, or expulsion of an International Dealer shall operate also as the censure, suspension, or expulsion of all its Member Directors."

Although IDs may deal or settle in any currency, they will not be allowed to trade in American Depository Receipts, issued by more and more leading "blue chip" companies to enable financial institutions to avoid stamp duty by buying stock through New York.

While the Council has enabled member firms to begin genuine international businesses, they are clearly on very short strings. Having said that, ambitious London jobbers like Smith Brothers, in harness with NM Rothschild, would admit that the potential for a skilled, well financed ID is great.

Courtaulds into the light

Courtaulds has had four years of gruelling and necessary rationalization under the chairmanship of 43-year-old Mr Christopher Hogg. If penny pinching was the watch word it may longer be so, judge by the five-for-three share offering for the reviving textile company is offering for the 9.2 million shares (12.2 per cent) it does not own in International Paint.

The terms put a value on International Paint of £154.6m or 45 per cent of the £344m at which the market values Courtaulds. In the year to the end of March, International Paint accounted for only 17 per cent of group sales, 28 per cent of trading profits and 22 per cent of capital employed.

In the first half of the present trading year, International Paint's profit contribution shrunk again in the face of declining world demand for industrial paints.

It has not always been so. Two years ago, International Paint was worth as much in market capitalization as the whole of Courtaulds.

It still took courage to put faith and money in Hogg whose reputation was made at Mr George Brown's Industrial Reorganisation Corporation and who rode to the office on a bicycle and preferred a Volkswagen Beetle to any other car. But he has succeeded where others might have failed: Courtaulds is again reasonably profitable, though it is still searching for the higher technology profile that will guarantee a viable future.

When the company raised £68m with a right issue last May, it hoped to make an acquisition in specialty chemicals in the US. The board had even appointed a director, Mr Ed Barr, to travel the length of the land to find one. But the strength of US equity markets and the dollar itself has more or less ruled out such ambitions for the moment.

In the light of this frustration, the full consolidation of International Paint, which Mr Hogg says is the only paint of Courtaulds at present making regular technical breakthroughs, looks the right move.

GM-Toyota agreement could lead to wave of mergers

From Bailey Morris, Washington

The United States Federal Trade Commission has tentatively approved a joint production agreement between General Motors and Toyota in a decision regarded as one of the most sweeping revisions of United States antitrust laws in more than a decade.

By a close three-to-two vote, the commission ruled that the two car companies could jointly build more than 250,000 Japanese-designed small cars at a GM plant at Fremont, California, without violating American antitrust laws.

The decision has cleared the way for mergers among huge international corporations which have avoided such ventures in the past for fear of running foul of strict American antitrust laws.

Almost immediately, GM's domestic competitors announced that they would fight the decision on the grounds that a joint venture between GM, the world's largest car company, and Toyota, the third largest, clearly violated American law.

Mr Lee Iacocca, chairman of Chrysler, said "After this decision, what kind of deal will be off-limits?" He vowed to fight the ruling over the next 60 days in the courts and through possible action in Congress.

"It's not right and I will do everything in my power to see that the American public gets a clear picture of just how wrong it is."

Ford also said it would fight the decision. The decision was approved late on Thursday after weeks of

negotiations in which the commission tried to meet widespread criticism of the venture by setting strict limits and terms on the deal. It was forced to put off at least two planned votes as the negotiations dragged on.

But finally, the commission majority agreed to a venture which would allow the makers to begin producing more than 250,000 cars a year, based on the Toyota Corolla, for sales in the US for 12 years beginning in 1985.

At a later date, GM could be producing additional cars for Toyota but would not be allowed to share in these profits or be privy to secret information from Toyota on the additional car models.

The commission, which is

expected to approve the decision formally after a 60-day public comment period, also stipulated that only information concerning the joint venture could be exchanged.

Mr Roger Smith, GM chairman, said in response to the criticism that he was confident the courts would rule in favour of the venture because of the backing it has received from the commission.

Mr James Miller, chairman of the commission said the majority had approved the venture because it would benefit the American public by increasing the supply of low-cost small cars and would give GM an opportunity to learn more cost-efficient production methods from Toyota.

Prices drift lower

With the stock market closing for Christmas at lunchtime yesterday, investors showed little enthusiasm to open up new positions and many decided to postpone decisions until the New Year.

Most of the business was completed after the first hour and prices were left to drift lower because of lack of support. The FT Index, after its record-breaking run closed 12 points lower at 775.0.

Cities reflected a firmer pound and managed to hold on to early leads of up to 25p at the longer end of the market in thin trade.

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index: 775.0 down 12
FT 100: 83.15 up 0.01
FT All Share: 489.24 down 0.80
Bargains N/A
Datastream USM Leaders Index: 95.70 up 0.1
New York: Dow Jones Industrial (latest) 1250.91 down 2.75
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index: 9,684.17 down 25.25
Hongkong: Hang Seng Index: 867.30 up 3.74
Amsterdam: 157.8 up 0.2
Sydney: AO Index: 762.2 up 1.0
Frankfurt: Commerzbank Index: 1031.7 down 2.7
Bremen: General Index: 136.44 up 0.47
Paris: CAC Index: 153.8 up 0.9
Zurich: SKA General: 312.80 unchanged

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE
Sterling: \$1.4330 up 55pts
Index: 82.5 up 0.2
DM: 3.9500 down 0.0025
FF: 12.0850 up 0.02
Yen: 335 up 1.0
Dollar: Index: 130.3 down 0.2
DM: 2.7555 down 0.0010
NEW YORK LATEST
Sterling: \$1.4327
Dollar: DM 2.7580
INTERNATIONAL
ECU: 5.71481
SDR: 7.28708

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Bank base rate: 9%
Finance houses base rate: 9%
Discount market loans week fixed:
3 month interbank: 9/16-9/8
Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar: 10/4-10/6
3 month DM: 6/16-6/16
3 month FF: 13/16-13/16

Dee buys 20 supermarkets

By Andrew Cornwell

Mr Alec Monk's Dee Corporation, formerly LinFood Holdings, yesterday announced the £1.8m acquisition of two supermarket companies based in Northern Ireland.

The deal comes after the £44.8m purchase of the 106 Key Markets stores from Fitch Lovell, the food group, last summer. Dee said yesterday that it will continue to operate the two companies, FA Wellworth and Broad-Fields, under their present names.

The companies run 20 supermarkets in Northern Ireland with a total selling area of 280,000 sq ft. In the year to last January 31 they made combined pretax profits of £4.68m.

Pretax profits in the year to January 31, 1984, are likely to be higher. The net assets of the two companies is £17.42m.



Alec Monk: £21.8m expansion in Northern Ireland

The acquisition will be funded by the issue of 5.7 million Dee ordinary shares. Of these, 1.4 millions will be placed and will carry the right to the interim dividend of 7p payable by Dee on February 28.

In the half year to November 12, Dee made increased pretax profits of £2.24m, against £6.88m in the same period the previous year, on sales of £64.9m. Mr Monk, the chairman, said at the halfway stage that sales of the Key Markets chain had increased satisfactorily since the acquisition and that costs had been reduced.

The management of Key Markets and Dee's Gateway supermarkets had been integrated. Analysts are predicting pretax profits of £20m for the year at Dee, against £17m last year.

However, Mr Monk has said that it would take at least three years for the full benefits to be obtained from the merger of the Key Markets and Dee businesses.

Mr Monk is still dissatisfied about the margins he is achieving on sales.

Eagle Star bids still in balance

By Our Financial Staff

The bidding for Eagle Star Holdings was left in the balance last night as the West German insurer, Allianz Versicherungs, reported that it had received acceptance from shareholders representing 0.01 per cent of Eagle's shares.

The acceptances take the Allianz stake in Eagle to 30.01 per cent, ahead of the 4.30pm deadline on December 30 set by the Takeover Panel for the final bids to be made.

Last night, there was no indication of any progress in the talks between Allianz and BAT Industries who are competing to win control of Eagle Star. Both bidders have made identical 675p per share bids for Eagle worth £934m.

Although the offers are identical, Sir Denis Mountain, chairman of Eagle Star, favours the BAT bid. He argues that BAT would make a better parent than Allianz and that the BAT offer is better because there is a paper alternative.

If there is no progress in the discussions between Allianz and BAT over resolving the battle for control of Eagle Star, the City's biggest takeover battle is likely to be decided by a one-day auction on December 30.

THE BIDDING FOR EAGLE STAR

Date	Bidder	Price	Value
16.81	Allianz	290p	For 30%
19.10.83	Allianz	500p	£992m
2.11.83	BAT	575p	£798m
28.11.83	Allianz	650p	£900m
28.11.83	BAT	650p	£900m
14.12.83	Allianz	665p	£920m
14.12.83	BAT	675p	£934m
22.12.83	Allianz	675p	£934

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):
am \$379.50 pm
close \$379.75-380.50 (£265.50-266)
New York latest: \$380.50
Kruggerand (per coin):
\$391.50-393 (£273.75-274.75)
Sovereigns (new):
\$89.25-90.25 (£62.25-63)
*Excludes VAT

WALL STREET

Share prices retreat in moderate trading

New York (AP) Dow Jones - Share prices were drifting lower in moderate, early trading on the New York Stock Exchange yesterday.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average was down by 2.75 to 1250.91.

Declines were nearly 3-to-4 ahead of rising stocks.

International Business Machines: 123½, up ½. Teledyne: 161½, off ¼. Atlantic Richfield: 41¼, ½ lower. Dun & Bradstreet: 60½, down 1. Great Northern: 60½, off 1¼. General Electric: 58¼, off ¼. General Motors: 73½, up ½.

Grumman fell ¼ to 26. On Thursday, the company forecast that 1984 earnings would be about this year's expected \$3.80 to \$3.90 a share. Net income in 1982, from continued operations, was \$3.35 a share.

Salomon Brothers and Bear

Stearns have dropped Grumman from their buy lists. Monsanto is off 2 at 105½. Knight-Ridder: 25½, up ½. CSX: 25½, up ½. AMR: 36, off ½. Colco: 20¼, up ½. Allegheny Corp: 63, up 2½.

Mr Ted Webb, senior vice-president at Bull & Bear Group, said: "These extraordinary markets always seem to happen around year-end. Here we have mostly sideways action and little real progress, while people are continuing to do window-dressing."

He noted the huge volume in American Telephone and its when-issued stock. They led the most active issues yesterday morning.

Public Service of Indiana and Long Island Lighting - dropped on Thursday on bad news. So the market did not show a clear-cut direction yesterday.

Institutional shareholders balk at £12m offer

Rift in F Miller takeover

By Wayne Listett

A conflict has developed in the agreed £12m takeover by Nottingham Manufacturers of fellow Marks and Spencer textile supplier, F Miller (Textiles).

Grieg, Middleton yesterday resigned as joint stockbroker to the Glasgow-based, children's clothing manufacturer, Miller. The broker said that leading institutional shareholders have told them of "their surprise at the low level of the offer."

The all-share, one-for-six, offer values Miller shares at 36p, against a pre-suspension price of 42p and a level ruling in the market of 60p, before reports of problems at Miller made the shares slip.

The institutional shareholders are Scottish Amicable

Life, M G X Nominees, Clydesdale Bank Nominees, Prudential Nominees and NC Lombard Street Nominees.

Between them the institutions hold 10.1 million shares, equivalent to 30 per cent of the issued equity. Directors of Miller, their families and associated interests, representing 17 per cent, have accepted the offer.

The institutions also expressed concern that what it considered a low offer had been recommended by the board and its advisers, Singer and Friedlander.

The broker said that it will be consulting with the institutional shareholders in F Miller soon to discuss what action will be taken over the offer.

Miller has assets of £5m that include £3m in cash, and has been trading profitably on a regular basis for the last 10 years.

At the time of the agreement, Mr F Miller, the chairman, said that future trading did not look encouraging and that a failure to achieve a desired increase in turnover had put margins under pressure.

However, in October, he said that more design and sales staff were being hired, "to get into more profitable areas and broaden the customer base."

Mr Miller said that the company would not be able to restore former levels of profitability, but as part of a larger group "future prospects should be more secure."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Stenhouse steps up bid fight

The board of Stenhouse Holdings has urged its shareholders not to accept the £53m takeover attempt by its 49 per cent owned Canadian subsidiary, Reed Stenhouse. This follows the announcement by Reed Stenhouse Holdings shareholders for its offer of one Reed Stenhouse share, plus 20p cash, for every five Stenhouse Holdings shares.

The Stenhouse Holdings board is opposing a bid on the ground that it favours the Canadian shareholders in Reed Stenhouse at the expense of Stenhouse Holdings shareholders. The board said that the 36.5 per cent acceptance level includes prior commitments from Continental Corporation of New York which holds 20 per cent of the shares and the 5.2 per cent holding of the Reed Stenhouse Voluntary Equity Scheme.

This means that acceptances from other shareholders totalled only 11.3 per cent, according to the Stenhouse Holdings board.

● Allied Irish bank announced yesterday the first step in its £99m campaign to take over First Maryland Bancorp. of the United States. The bank has taken a 43 per cent stake for an undisclosed sum and said it will be purchasing more shares over the next four years to bring its holding to more than 50 per cent.

● British Airways and China's National Airline have agreed on a plan breaking the Chinese carrier's monopoly on the Peking-Hongkong route.

● Bankruptcy proceedings for Dunlop's French subsidiary are likely to remain suspended in the new year to keep its factories operating while talks about a possible rescue package continue.

If you have a gilt maturing in 1984...

What next?

During 1984, more than £5,000 million of government stocks will be redeemed by private and corporate investors. But, for each of these investors, there is one vital question to be answered.

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Banking

NatWest efficiency machine in action

Having been accused of bearing a grudge against National Westminster Bank, Christmas being the season of goodwill and all that, it seems the right time to redress the balance. This is a true Christmas tale of astonishing efficiency by NatWest.

Last week, I received a telephone call from a polite young man from the bank who wanted to know if I had used the cash machine at Holborn Hall branch on Friday night. "Yes," I replied, "I had."

"How much did you withdraw and did you have any trouble with the machine?" he asked.

"I had drawn out £50. And I said: 'The only problem I had was that it did not seem to last as long as usual'."

But then it never does. You can hardly blame that on the machine. "Are you sure you took all the money?" he wanted to

know. "Yes, I had taken it all, but I must admit I didn't count it," I replied.

Later the same day, the man from the bank rang up again to say that the bank had checked with other customers who had also used the machine and had come to the conclusion that I must be the person who had been underpaid - note that. UNDERPAID.

"Have you any idea how much you might have been short?" he asked.

Faced with this impossible decision I came to the conclusion that I must have had at least £30 from the machine - a minimum of two £5 notes and two £10 notes.

"Fine," said the polite young man: "we will be crediting your account with £10 if that is all right with you."

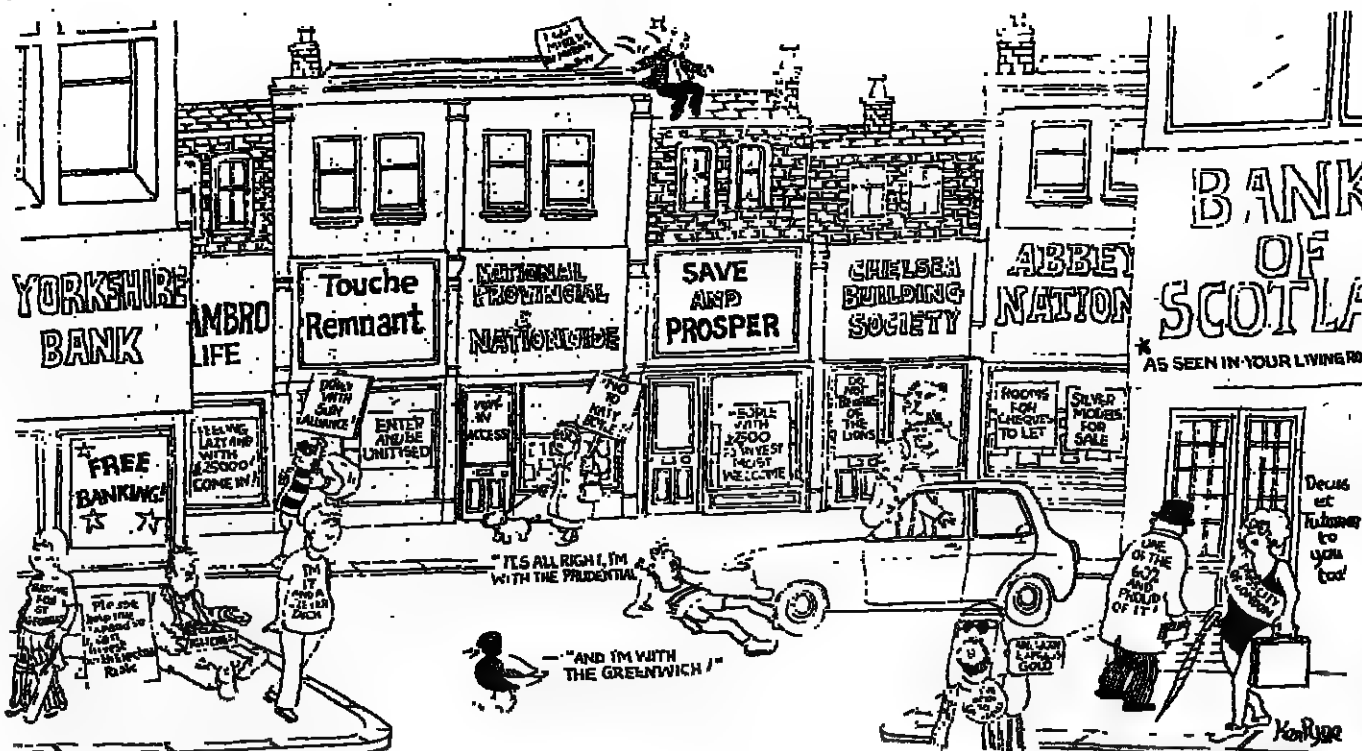
I was so astonished, I am not sure whether I remembered to thank him.

Test your recall of saving tips

We hope readers of Family Money pick up many useful money saving tips. Sue Bevan has compiled a holiday quiz to test your knowledge on personal finance - the answers can all be found in past numbers of Family Money. Regular readers should be able to score at least 20 correct answers.

Questions

- 1 Which building societies gave access to Access?
- 2 What did Save & Prosper do to interest people with bank accounts?
- 3 Why are there lions in Chelsea?
- 4 Who split Cedar four ways?
- 5 Who got mired in Miras?
- 6 How did Grindlays go for gold?
- 7 Continental travellers have had to carry extra weight since May. Why?
- 8 Which building society made it a good day for the ducks?
- 9 Why were housebuyers pleased by the height of the ceiling?
- 10 Decus et Tutamen is:
 - a) the motto of the Stock Exchange?
 - b) on the £1 coin?
 - c) above the entrance of the gold futures exchange?
 - d) an oath taken by the chairman of Lloyd's?

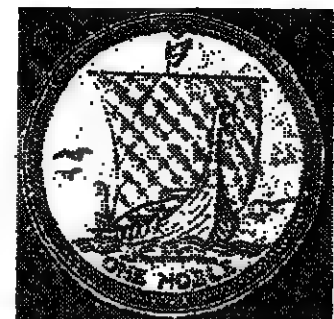


- 11 How many Britons can you bank on?
 - a) 50%
 - b) 63%
 - c) 75%
 - d) 80%
- 12 Who will display their figures in your living room?
- 13 What policymaker wants to insure that the wealthy keep their affairs in order?
- 14 Which institution has helped its savers to be less calculating?
- 15 Who decided more should be rolling in from rolling up?

- 16 Who is putting less of a premium on beating burglars?
- 17 Why are bank accounts moving to Yorkshire?
- 18 He could have turned £300 into £485 but he settled for £100. Who is this promising young investor?
- 19 Where did Steve Ovett insure he came first?
- 20 How did this man add interest to the rates?

- 21 Why does Katie Boyle want you to pay a premium on your pets?
- 22 How has this silversmith been put on his metal?
- 23 How did Bridget Sandford Smith put equal rights for husbands on the books?

A: Which country minted this coin and what is it made of?



B: Why are these girls far from stumped by life assurance?



C: When did beauty queens dazzle the City with statistics?

Answers

- 1 National and Provincial and Nationwide, who joined forces with National Westminster and Midland banks to make their customers eligible to apply for an Access card.
- 2 The S & P Unit trust group launched a high interest deposit account with a cheque book facility available to those with more than £2,500 to invest.
- 3 Because Chelsea Building Society has reissued its popular Lion shares which pay premium interest over a three-year term.
- 4 Touche Remnant when it utilized Cedar investment Trust, turning it into four unit trusts.

5 Everyone buying a house on a mortgage with the introduction of the new method of deducting mortgage interest relief at source. The change meant some nasty shocks for homebuyers when they opened their pay packets at the end of April.

6 Grindlays Bank joined the American Express Gold Card programme and customers earning £20,000 a year can now apply for a card which gives an instant overdraft facility of £2,500.

7 Since May anyone wanting to cash cheques overseas has to have a Eurocheque encashment card issued by the banks to overcome the escalating incidence of fraud. Midland, the odd bank out, went over to an entirely new system involving a new uniform Eurocheque Card and separate cheques which can be used in shops and restaurants as well as in banks.

8 The Greenwich which has launched an adopt a duck account, under whose rules it makes a £4 donation to the Wildlife Trust for every account opened and savers can select and name their own duck.

9 The Government's proposal to raise the limit on mortgage interest tax relief from £25,000 to £30,000 which was dropped from the Finance Bill before the election, was replaced in the mini budget.

10 It is the engraving round the edge of the new £1 coin. It means "an ornament and a safeguard," and is intended to deter counterfeiters because it is difficult to reproduce.

11 These days 75 per cent of British adults hold a bank current or deposit account.

12 Nottingham Building Society and the Bank of Scotland which have launched the HomeLink home banking system. Subscribers using a computer console linked to their television can transfer cash, pay bills and check their accounts.

13 Hambro Life, the life assurance company, which

in October launched its financial management programme offering a package of services to the busy, or lazy, client with at least £25,000 to place.

14 The National Savings Bank which from January 1 is changing its way of calculating interest on its investment accounts and will pay on a daily basis. The old system where interest was earned only on whole pounds for whole months meant that investors had to be very careful about the timing of their payments and withdrawals.

15 The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr Nigel Lawson, who has dictated that from January 1 any gains made in offshore roll-up funds (which have dodged tax by reinvesting interest - thus providing a capital gain rather than income) will be taxed as income at the highest marginal rate.

16 The Sun Alliance Insurance Company, whose new Firemark home contents policy gives a discount on premiums to those who take special precautions against the burglary.

17 Because the Yorkshire Bank is one of the few to offer free banking to those who keep in credit. Its current accounts rose by 800,000 in the year to October 1983.

18 Ward Lawrence who emerged overall winner of The Times/Money Programme unit trust competition. A sum of £100 invested in each of his three selections: Britannia Gold and General; Britannia Minerals and Crescent Tokyo, over calendar 1982, would have turned into a total £484.72. But schoolboy Ward did not actually invest in his tips so all he got was the prize of £100.

19 Steve Ovett, the middle distance runner, took out the first policy when the Prudential joined forces with the Amateur Athletic Association to provide personal accident cover for athletes.

20 Mr Clive Thornton, chief executive of the Abbey National Building Society (about to become chairman of the Mirror newspaper group) wrecked the big

societies' cartel for fixing interest rates when he pulled Abbey out.

21 Katie Boyle is promoting Pet Plan's new scheme for insuring the cost of vet's fees.

22 Chailey Lambert who makes silver models as a hobby has been given the chance to make it a full-time job by winning the "Head Start in Business" competition run by the Industrial Society in conjunction with Abbey National Building Society. Part of the prize is a rent and rate-free office for a year.

23 Backed by the Equal Opportunities Commission, Bridget Sandford Smith won her campaign to make Pentos, the bookshop and publishing company, change its pension scheme rules to allow widowers of female employees, to receive a pension as of right.

Answers to picture quiz

A: It is the platinum Noble minted by the Isle of Man government with a face value of £10.

B: They are members of an all female sales force spearheaded by international cricketer Rachael Heyhoe Flint (centre) and trained by St George Assurance to sell

insurance and savings products to women.

C: On April 14, 1983 when Mr. Eric Morley's Miss World company was floated on the Unlisted Securities Market and the shares soared from 60p to 133p on the first day of dealing.

FAMILY MONEY MARKET

Banks
Current account - no interest paid.
Deposit accounts - Midland, Barclays, Lloyds, Natwest 5% per cent, seven days notice required for withdrawals. National Girobank 7 per cent. Lloyds extra interest 9 per cent. Monthly income account Natwest 9% per cent. Fixed term deposits £2,500-£25,000 - 1, 3 and 6 months 8% per cent. Rates quoted by Barclays. Other banks may differ.

National Savings Bank
Ordinary accounts - interest 5 per cent on £500 minimum on deposit for whole of 1984, otherwise 3 per cent.

National Savings Certificates 26th issue
Return: totally free of income and capital gains tax, equivalent to an annual interest rate over the five-year term of 8.25 per cent, maximum investment £5,000.

National Savings Income Bond
Min investment £2,000 max. £200,000. Interest - 11% per cent variable at six weeks notice - paid monthly without deduction of tax. Repayment at 3 or 6 months notice - check penalties.

National Savings 2nd index-linked certificates
Maximum investment £10,000, excluding holdings of other issues. Return: tax-free and linked to changes in the retail price index. Supplement of 0.2 per cent per month up to October 1984 paid to new investors; existing holders receive a 2.4 per cent supplement between October 1983 and October 1984 4 per cent bonus if held full five years to maturity. Cash value of £100 Retirement issue certificates purchased in November 1978, £177.48 including bonus and supplement.

National Savings Deposit Bond
Minimum investment £500 max. £50,000. 11% per cent variable at six weeks notice. Credited annually without deduction of tax. Repayment at three months notice. Half interest only paid on bonds repaid during the first year.

Guaranteed Income Bonds
Return: tax-free of basic rate tax, higher rate taxpayers may have a further liability on maturity. 2 years English Insurance 8.4 per cent. 3 years Crescent Life 8.5 per cent. 4 years American Life 8.0-10.5 per cent. 5 years EuroLife 8.5 per cent.

Local authority yearling bonds 12-month fixed rate investments, interest 9 1/4 per cent basic rate tax deducted at source (can be reclaimed by non-taxpayers), minimum investment £1,000, purchased through stockbroker or bank.

Local authority town hall bonds
Fixed term, fixed rate investments, interest quoted gross (basic rate tax deducted at source reclaimable by non-taxpayers). 1 year Lambeth 9% per cent. 2-3 years Huddersfield 10% per cent. 4-5 years Knowsley 11% 9-10 years Worthing 11 per cent. Further details available from Chartered Institute of Public Loans Bureau (01-528 7855 after 3pm) see also on Prestel no 24808.

Building societies
Ordinary share accounts - 7.25 per cent. Term shares - 1 to 5 years, between 0.5 per cent and 1.75 per cent over the BSA recommended ordinary share rate depending on the term. Regular savings schemes - 1.25 per cent over BSA recommended ordinary share rate. Rates quoted above are those most commonly offered. Individual building societies may quote different rates. Interest on all accounts paid net of basic rate tax. Not reclaimable by non-taxpayers.

Investors in Industry
Fixed term, fixed rate investments of between 3 and 10 years, interest paid half-yearly without deduction of tax. Five-Fifty scheme: 6 months 9% per cent. 1 year, 9% per cent. 2 years, 10 per cent.

Foreign currency deposits (UDT)
Fixed-term, fixed-rate deposits, interest paid without deductions of tax. Five-Fifty scheme: 6 months 9% per cent. 1 year, 9% per cent. 2 years, 10 per cent.

Rates quoted by Rothschild's Old Court Ltd. Reserves 0481 26741 seven days notice is required for withdrawal and no charge is made for switching currencies.

November RPI: 341.9 (The new RPI figure is not announced until the third week of the following month.)

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Consolidated Crds	9%
Continental Trust	9%
C. Hoare & Co	9%
Lloyds Bank	9%
Midland Bank	9%
Nat Westminster	9%
TSB	9%
Williams & Glyn's	9%

† Mortgage Base Rates

* 7 day deposits on basis of money £10,000, 8 1/2% £10,000 up to £50,000, 9% £50,000 and over, 7 1/2%.

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Tobacco brands, especially the expensive, are recovering. Derek Harris reports

Whiff of success for cigars

The £300m-a-year cigar market looks like improving this year, possibly by nearly 3 per cent, after three years of falling sales. The improvement has come in the run-up to Christmas, when about a third of all cigars are sold. Cigarette sales have also been recovering but not enough to improve last year.

Sales of fine cigars, armed up-market, have recently jumped by 15 per cent or so. They had plunged by a fifth in 1981 as company chiefs eschewed hand-rolled Havanas along with Rolls-Royces. Now, after two Cuban harvests hit by storms, importers are worried by future supplies.

In the three main categories of the volume market — machine-sized whiffs and miniatures — the company that appears to be benefiting most is Gallaher, Britain's second largest tobacco manufacturer and a part of American Brands.

The sales recovery has shown most in the whiffs sector, which accounts for three-quarters of all cigar sales. The sector is dominated by Hamlet, Gallaher's Benson and Hedges brand.

Imperial Tobacco, Britain's biggest tobacco manufacturer, dominates the larger cigar market, with its Wills' Castellans and Wintmans half coronas, one of the Dutch range which it imports. The panatella sector, accounting for 10 per cent of all cigar sales, is the least buoyant, according to Imperial.

Imperial also dominates the miniatures market, its Tom Thumb brand being market leader with Wintmans' Cafe Creme as number two. The miniatures sector has merely stopped declining.

Imperial says that all its brands, including the imported ones have been at least holding on to their sales.

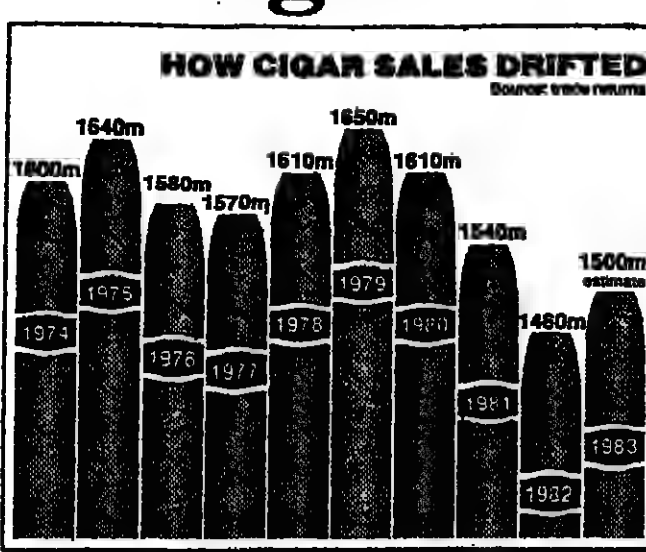
The main battle is among the medium-sized whiffs, where Imperial claims a 40 per cent share through Panama and such brands as Embassy Silms, Grande and John Player Mild.

The whiffs sector is showing a growth of up to 1 per cent, and Hamlet, which a 65 per cent market share is claimed, has improved its share by 3 per cent this year, according to Mr Guy Moreland-Green, general manager cigars for Gallaher, Panama.

His nearest challenger, is credited with 14 per cent. Gallaher whiff — Manikin — once Britain's best-selling cigar, is trailing behind at least four Imperial brands with a 5 per cent share. Smokers have not liked its shorter, stubbier, darker-leaf nature, preferring instead, slimmer cigars with lighter wrapper leaf.

As a result, Manikin has changed. Gallaher has retained its leaf formula to give a fuller taste, but has slimmed and lengthened the cigar. The new formula has just gone on national sale after being test-marketed in the south-east. The change looks like stabilizing sales and possibly turning them round.

Mr Moreland-Green said: "The cigar market is pretty steady and conservative, so only a small increase in sales over the next year can be expected." Offsetting the whiffs growth is a declining trend in panatellas, although only peripheral brands have lost sales, he said.



Imperial is inclined to be more optimistic on sales trends. It is looking to possibly 1,500 million cigars going into the trade this year, an increase on 1982 of almost 3 per cent.

By value cigars account for 4.5 per cent of the tobacco market in Britain, compared with 2.7 per cent in the United States, and reflects the way smaller cigars have become more an everyday habit. Fifty-seven per cent of cigars are smoked by lower socio-economic groups.

At the other end of the scale, fine cigars sell about 4.5 million a year, far fewer than they used to and less than 1 per cent of the cigar market by volume. The trade is largely through a handful of London-based importers. One of those is Dunhill, in which Rothman International has a majority stake.

According to Mr Richard Dunhill, the chairman, "fine cigar sales are up 15 per cent with us. Some manufacturers are claiming more than that."

With possibly half of Havana cigars now made by machine — to the dismay of connoisseurs who inveigh against the chopping of leaves — a distinct market segment is emerging of hand-rolled Havanas at premium prices. Monte Cristo and Davidoff have been making the running, closely followed by Romeo y Julieta.

The top of the new Dunhill range costs £11.50 in an individual box and gives a three-hour smoke. Historically, cigar sales rise and fall according to the availability of disposable income nationally. At least at the top of the market, there is now barely a whiff of recession.

LONDON COMMODITY PRICES		LONDON METAL EXCHANGE		28.00-28.50	
Rubber in 2 1/2 percent		London Metals		700	
Coffee, arabica, sugar in pounds per		Original turnover figures.		Time: Firm.	
Cocoa in 100 lb per metric ton		Prices in pounds per metric ton		28.00-28.50	
SUGAR No 6		Silver in pounds per tray ounce		28.00-28.50	
SUGAR No 6		Russett Smith & Co. Ltd. reports		28.00-28.50	
SUGAR No 6		COPPER HIGH GRADE		28.00-28.50	
SUGAR No 6		Cash		28.00-28.50	
SUGAR No 6		Three months		28.00-28.50	
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Recent Issues

Company	Price	Change
BP 100 (11/11)	106.50	+0.25
BP 200 (11/11)	106.50	+0.25
BP 300 (11/11)	106.50	+0.25
BP 400 (11/11)	106.50	+0.25
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News is expected in the New Year that a mystery buyer has built up a 4 per cent stake in Distillers, Britain's largest exporter of Scotch whisky.

Yesterday, the shares stood out among the FT constituents with a 2p rise to 236p - a rise on the week of 17p. At this level, the group, whose brands include Jonny Walker Red Label and White Horse, are valued at £857m with historic asset backing of more than 300p a share.

Word is that the buying has caused some apprehension in the Distillers boardroom. A spokesman for Distillers said the company was aware of the strength in the share price over the past three or four days, but never comments on market rumour. Speculation has mentioned a possible consortium bid. But any bid is likely to be referred to the Monopolies Commission.

Stocks of Scotch whisky, equivalent to seven years' worth of consumption, are stored in Scottish distilleries, but analysts estimate that sales have bottomed out and there are now signs of a pick-up in world

brokers drifting back to their offices around lunchtime for a farewell drink before the Christmas festivities get under way.

Leading shares slipped back on lack of support with the FT index closing the short working

The broker Capel-Cure Myers has become a fan of Spring Ram, the Yorkshire bathroom and kitchen equipment manufacturer, and says it has 'outstanding' prospects. CCM expects profits to grow from £1.03m to £1.40m this year followed by £2m next year and recommends buying the shares at or below the present level of 171p.

Shares of International Paint returned from suspension 36p dearer at 203p after the all-share offer of five shares for three from Comaranda, which already owns 88 per cent of the company. The deal is worth

210p a share. Courtaulds slipped 1p to 126p. Meanwhile, the Lloyds Bank pension fund has found itself the owner of a 5.5 per cent stake in Crystalline Holdings, the

Buyer worries Distillers

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began, Dec 12. Dealings end, Dec 29. Contango Day, Dec 30. Settlement Day, Jan 2.

It has been a good account, so far, for the discount houses. All week, the shares have responded to whispers of a tripartite merger of some sort. Yesterday, the market speculator's money was on Alexander's Discount on 332p. Jessel Tynbace on 68p and Smith & Aubyn on 47p. Only last year, Jessel Tynbace decided to merge with Gillett Bros after months of rumour.

electronics group, as a result of the 6 per cent it held in Royal Worcester. Crystalline recently made a successful bid for Royal Worcester to which Lloyds was one of the underwriters for part of the cash offer, which would have given it extra shares.

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THE TIMES 1000 1983/84

The World's Top Companies Full statistical details and addresses: UK, Europe, USA, Japan, Hong Kong, Australia, Canada, Singapore, etc. From bookshops at £17.50 or £19.00 (inc. postage & packing) from Times Books Ltd, 16 Golden Square, London, W1.

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FOOTBALL: CHRISTMAS RUSH BEGINS ON BOXING DAY MORNING

West Ham's fall is Tottenham spur

By Stuart Jones, Football Correspondent

The first division's marathon men are about to hit "the wall". For four months they have been running at a regular pace, as the halfway stage of their elongated season comes into view, they now face a cruelly short, sharp sprint. Over the festive period most teams will be required to play four matches in eight days.

Liverpool, whose overall strength and fitness has become almost as traditional as the decorations on a Christmas tree, adapted admirably to such a change of speed but this year they may find themselves unusually short of breath. Two Milk Cup ties in three days against Birmingham City were, after all, scarcely the ideal preparation.

Their programme becomes progressively harder. On Boxing Day they visit West Bromwich Albion, who have lost their last three home games as well as most of their players. Statham is injured. Thompson and Owen are suspended and Whitehead, MacKenzie, Bennett and Robertson are all considered more than doubtful. Liverpool go on to entertain Leicester City, who have not only recovered to take 10 out of the last 15 points but also won at Anfield on their last visit two years ago. After travelling to Nottingham Forest, they then return home to meet their most realistic challengers, Manchester United, on January 2.

Melia wants a job in England

Jimmy Melia, who took Brighton to their first FA Cup final last season, is making a success of his coaching job with the Lisbon second division team Belenenses, but is anxious to return to English football.

Melia, spending Christmas at his home, is a superbly fit 45 year old and says: "There's no place like Britain for football, and my ambition is to get back to a League club."

United had expected to be without their captain, Robson, until at least the New Year but the Old Trafford staff have been astonished by his recovery from a severely bruised instep. Mick Brown, the assistant manager, was "shocked by the extent of his injury in Monday's Milk Cup defeat. When he took his boot off, his foot seemed to explode."

"It swelled up so much that he could only just get it into a bucket of water. But apart from being a great healer, he plays with injuries that would keep other players out for weeks. I would not rule him out even of the game on Monday." That is said Coventry City, unbeaten in their last eight games. McQueen, Bailey and Crooks, who have scored four goals in two reserve outings, are also expected to return at Highfield Road, where Liverpool recently suffered their heaviest defeat for six years. Even if United fail there, they should make up ground at home to Notts County and Stoke City.

West Ham United traditionally follow the opposite path to Liverpool. They dropped from fourth to eighth in the second league season and after winning only one of their last six games, are again beginning to show signs of losing their place, currently third. West Ham, at home to Southampton on Monday and away to Luton Town on Tuesday, will be

without their leading scorer, Swindhurst, who is suspended after being sent off against Arsenal a fortnight ago. Pike has also been ordered to rest a troublesome groin strain.

London's challenge may soon be taken over by Queen's Park Rangers and Tottenham Hotspur. Rangers, £150,000 the richer for selling Roeder to Newcastle United yesterday, will be at full strength for their visit to Leicester and Tottenham are now as close to it as they have been since the start of the season. Mabbutt alone is unfit.

They open the Christmas rush against Arsenal at 11 o'clock on Monday morning. Arsenal's line-up will not be unwrapped until shortly before the kick-off and Tottenham's will be refreshingly new. For a start, Ardiles, who came on as a substitute and created a goal with his initial touch at Old Trafford last Friday, will begin his first match since February 5. Perryman moves to right back, Hughson comes in at left back, Archibald returns up front with Brazil and Falco, yet to miss a game so far, is left to sit on the bench. Surprisingly both of their young wingers, Dick and Cook, are preferred to Galvin.

Don Howe, whose own position at Highbury may prove to be even more temporary than those on his team sheet, knows that he cannot consider either Talbot or Rix. He may also be forced to omit O'Leary, Sunderland and Robson as well. It is significant that, of that experienced quintet, only Talbot did not contribute to their Milk Cup victory at White Hart Lane six weeks ago.

● Brentford, who have brought forward their Boxing Day home game with Wimbledon to Christmas Eve, will have father Christmas giving away chocolate bars to children before the game, whose kickoff has been moved from 1.30 to 3.0. The club have clean bill of health except for Tony Spencer, who has a knee injury.



Keeping injury at bay: Robson hoping for a Boxing Day return

Scotland with northern accent Rush job a mistake

By Hugh Taylor

Jack Stein, Scotland's manager, will be the most observant spectator watching the premier division match between St Mirren and Aberdeen at Love Street today. Since Aberdeen have become the unofficial champions of Europe after beating Hamburg in the Super Cup final, with their dedication and commitment combining to produce an effective and attractive style, there has been an outcry from the Scotland team, now plumping the international depths, to change their pattern and follow the ways of the highly successful Northern club.

Whether, of course, the beleaguered Stein will allow himself to be talked into changing Scotland's methods is open to doubt. He seems to remain convinced that the only way World Cup success can come is by playing in the calm manner of

the crack European teams, with possession football the key. Nevertheless, he will see today that the style of Aberdeen is almost a facsimile of that of the great Celtic team whom Stein himself guided to European Cup glory in 1967, with the accent more on sweeping attack than on the more passive Continental approach.

Victory by Aberdeen, who are firm favourites than ever to scoop every Scottish honour this season, may at least influence Stein in demanding of his players a more committed attitude even if he still believes the old, bustling, fiery assault evoking memories of clan raids can no longer play a part in winning games at the highest level.

Aberdeen will have to be at their best if they are to overcome a St Mirren team who have improved to

such an extent since Alex Miller, the former Rangers player, became manager that Dundee United, Celtic and Rangers have all been humbled at Love Street.

This sole premier division match signals the start of an exciting holiday programme. For instance, Celtic are still hot on the heels of the leaders, Aberdeen, are hoping that the roles will be reversed from this stage last year, when they held a three-point advantage over Aberdeen and were six in front of the eventual champions, Dundee United.

It is unfair to say that these three are the only title contenders this season, although Aberdeen are the team in command, so Celtic recognize that a win over Dundee United at Parkhead on Tuesday is essential if they are to stay in touch.

Rush played a big part in Liverpool's opening goal, after 39 minutes, when he stroked the pass that let Nicol in to score. Rush made it 2-0 with a 53rd minute header, before he stepped up to take his first spot kick for the champions, sending Cotton the wrong way as he drove the ball home.

On a cold, wet and windy night only 11,638 people turned up to see the teams clash for the second time in 48 hours. Following the 1-1 draw at St Andrew's, the replay was virtually all Liverpool, and Fagan summed it up perfectly when he said: "We deserved to win it. Maybe it was not too entertaining in the first half, but in the end the crowd were well entertained."

Much of that entertainment was provided by Cotton, who performed heroics to keep the score down. The three goals he conceded meant that Liverpool now face a quarter-final of the FA Cup, and the derby game on Sunday because of crowd trouble.

Racing were banished to the second division for the first time in their history yesterday after the local soccer association's disciplinary tribunal confirmed as final results the suspension of two league matches suspended on Sunday because of crowd trouble.

Buenos Aires (Reuters) - Independentiente beat Racing Avellaneda 3-0 to become first division champions of Argentina for the eleventh time. San Lorenzo finished runners-up after beating Platense 2-0.

Racing were banished to the second division for the first time in their history yesterday after the local soccer association's disciplinary tribunal confirmed as final results the suspension of two league matches suspended on Sunday because of crowd trouble.

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Rush job a mistake

lan Rush hit his 20th goal of the season, against Birmingham City at Anfield on Thursday night, almost by accident. He sealed Liverpool's 3-0 Milk Cup fourth round replay victory by hitting a 74th minute penalty past Cotton.

Sources in Liverpool's usual penalty taker, but their manager, Joe Fagan, said afterwards: "Somebody on the pitch said Rush was on a hat-trick so, having won the penalty when brought down by the keeper, he was allowed to take it. But it was not his hat-trick - it was only his second goal."

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RUGBY UNION

Busy Bath over-indulge in the festive season

By David Hanks, Rugby Correspondent

Christmas is a time of over-indulgence and some clubs are in danger of suffering from festive indigestion. Bath, for instance, may be making too much of a good thing, with games against Pontypool last night, Clifton on Boxing Day, improving Northampton a week today and Cardiff two days later. Heavy fixtures lists have long been an accepted part of life in Wales and the West Country without it is sometimes said, making unduly heavy demands on leading players because many clubs operate a squad system.

Players who take part in club training, in regional and national squad sessions, as well as club and representative matches, tell a different story. They would not be there if they did not want to be, but rugby's treadmill does nothing to improve the quality of the product. In that respect the enforced rest taken today by the players of Rosslyn Park and Coventry may be no bad thing, although it is ironic that Park should have spent so much money this season in improving their Rochampton pitch only to have a cancellation imposed by waterlogging.

Coventry can conserve their energies for the Boxing Day battle with Moseley, who take the side that beat Bedford last week down to Ebbw Vale today but will restore Head to their front row on Monday. Ebbw Vale are without their captain, Dennehy, the Wales B back row forward, who is working.

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South on the high road

By Iain Mackenzie

The Scottish district championship reaches its climax today when South meet Glasgow at Hawick in what is in effect the playoff for the title.

South have played three and won two, Glasgow have won against Edinburgh and North but were beaten when the Anglo-Scotts visited Huddersfield.

The chances of Glasgow beating the Borders on their own pitch are slim. Glasgow have won this encounter only twice in 31 years in the Borders.

There is an interesting duel in prospect behind the scrum where Sandy Service, possibly the best uncapped scrum half in Scottish

rugby history, he is opposed by Gordon Hunter, the Selkirk player who hopes to take over from Roy Laidlaw in the national side.

There is, too, John Beattie, the Lion's No. 8, who is pitted against South's Sean McCaughey, a rising star from Hawick. McCaughey made his mark when South beat Edinburgh at Myreside last week. He scored two tries in three minutes and he must feature in the Scotland trial at Murrayfield on the first Saturday in January. McCaughey, born in Hawick of Irish parents, is in his first season in senior rugby.

If Glasgow can subdue McCaughey today, they will achieve their first win in the Borders

Match to aid blind soldier

Newbridge are to play a charity match in aid of a 20-year-old Gwent soldier, Andy Bull, who was blinded by a terrorist bomb in Belfast this year.

Their press officer, Tony Brown, said the club have a link with the Royal Regiment of Wales, having played them during a German tour last May. It is hoped to stage the match in March and the proceeds will go to the Andrew Bull appeal fund. Bull, whose home is at Nantyglo, near Brynmawr, is spending Christmas in the military hospital at Litchfield.

Leicester have sold all 16,000 tickets for Wednesday's match against the Barbarians.

Sporting oddities in the passing parade

When chance was the fool's name for fate

To win is human; to foul things up on a cataclysmic scale is a talent of a higher and rarer order. For this has been a year of twin-left-footed forwards, of leaden-shod athletes and jockeys and helmetmen with haywire steering, or error piled on sporting error, a year when, as undying fog beckoned, the hapless bumbled, sat on fate's whoopee cushion, the year of the blunder - like all other years.

Take Gordon Smith, Brighton, ludicrous underdogs, on the edge of an impossible win over Manchester United in the FA Cup Final, and the ball comes to Smith, leaving him clear with only the goalkeeper to beat. Destiny in his hands, ball at his feet, and he blew it. It was the goalkeeper, and not the forward, who seized the moment. Brighton lost the replay, in fact they were thumped out of sight, paying the penalty for failing to seize their moment.

India's cricketers are also in the process of getting thumped out of sight right now, at the hands of West Indies. But India, of course, seized their moment, and astounded the world, by winning the Prudential World Cup, defeating West Indies in the final at Lord's. It was made possible by the failure of their batsmen, particularly Vivian Richards and Clive Lloyd, whose apparent determination to win the game single-handed against donkey drop bowling saw him hole out, both catches taken by that flashing-eyed desperado, Kapil Dev.

India's win was an incomparable piece of sorcery, an adept seizing of a moment that will never present itself again. This is precisely what Ivan Lendl did not do when he faced Jimmy Connors in the final of the US Open. Lendl, at set-all, has a set point on his own service ... and served a double fault. You really must not show signs of human frailty to a bully like Connors: Connors won 6-3, 6-7.

In the second division, Bramley, playing better well, can take a couple of points at home to Doncaster. Barrow, the runaway league leaders, should have no difficulties at Huyton.

There are plenty morning kick-offs and these include the Castledford game, and at Bramley, Dewsbury v Batley, Huddersfield v Halifax, and York v Huddersfield. Two games are played on Tuesday: Hull's home fixture against the slowly reviving Featherstone Rovers, their conquerors at Wembley in May, and the derby game between Warrington and Leigh.

FOR THE RECORD

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Philadelphia Flyers 5, New Jersey Nets 6; Quebec Nordiques 5, Montreal Canadiens 1; Minnesota North Stars 4, Boston Bruins 2; New York Islanders 6, Washington Capitals 1.

WEIGHT-LIFTING

SOFIA: Clean-and-jerk: 1. N. Tsyflov (Bulg.) 150.5 kg (world record).



Conner: That sinking feeling

good by showing no sympathy at all for the victim, his opponent Graham Marsh, who promptly took three putts, two from a distance from which Faldo might, in the circumstances, have given him.

Dennis Conner is responsible for the waterman's foul-up of the year through his feat in the final race of the American Cup, in which he managed to turn a 57-second advantage into a 41-second defeat, thereby guaranteeing himself a place in history.

Sieve Overt, the alleged master of tactics, somehow made the most spectacular hash of things in the 1,500 metres final in the world championship boxed in in eighth place at the bell, while for rugby, the year's disaster has been the professional circus that it meant to be starting up in January, but has become a project remarkable for as much hot air as the Montgolfier brothers and as much heart-stopping action as in India v Pakistan Test match.

Being Charlie Nicholas probably counts as one of the year's major disasters: poor old Charlie, transferred from Celtic to Arsenal for £750,000 in an attempt to stop the Arsenal jokes, has instead become one. Still, as Boy George said, lots of people prefer a teddy bear to an Action Man.

Lester Piggott, of all people, perpetrated racing's boob of the year by deciding not to ride All Along in the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe. Piggott's own choice, Awasiif, was nowhere, but All Along, piloted by the seventh choice jockey, Walter Swinburn, won, and went on to raid America, winning the Rothmans International, the Turf Classic and the Washington Jockey Club International, and winning a total of \$2.5m. That's fouling it up on a grand scale.

Finally, there can be only one winner, a man who makes so much clear about sport. He is not, in fact, a sportsman, but a man who works on the railways. Yes, the ticket collector who threw the West Indian cricketer Colin Croft off a train for being in a whites only compartment had made the ultimate statement on spring politics on the subject of South Africa. Now another 12 months of glory

CRICKET: A GOOD WICKET IN MELBOURNE, A WET WICKET IN MADRAS

Australia lose Hogg and Pakistan gain confidence

From Ian Brayshaw, Melbourne

Rodney Hogg, the Australian fast bowler, has withdrawn from the team for the fourth Test match against Pakistan, starting here on Boxing Day, because of a back injury. He will be replaced in the 12 by John Maguire of Queensland.

Australia lead 1-0 in the series but their selectors have almost thrown it wide open with their puzzling decisions to overlook the claims of the fast bowler, Rackemann, that he was fit enough to resume after missing the third Test through injury, and to include a couple of relatively unknown spinners, Matthews and Bennett.

Rackemann, a tall and awkward customer, earned a huge psychological advantage over the Pakistani batsmen in the first two Tests. Having proved his fitness during the week, he looked certain to be recalled to try to regain some of Australia's edge, which appeared to evaporate when the tourists had their three century-makers in their only innings in the third Test. Instead, the selectors called up for the first time bowler, Maguire, a tall, lean, right-arm fast-medium bowler, who has developed into a good into-the-wind performer.

The choice of Matthews, aged 24, a busy, right-arm orthodox spinner and handy late middle-order batsman, is remarkable. His credentials read: 11 first-class games, 23 wickets at 34.73 each, career-best performance three for 41; career-best batting performance 86 in a total of 493 runs, average 41.25.

Bennett, aged 27, bowls left-arm orthodox. He has played only three games this season for a total of eight wickets, five of them in the first innings of a Sheffield Shield game last weekend. In his favour it must be said that he was a regular member of the New South

Wales side last season, with the good return of 36 wickets, a performance which won him a tour to Zimbabwe with the Australian youth team.

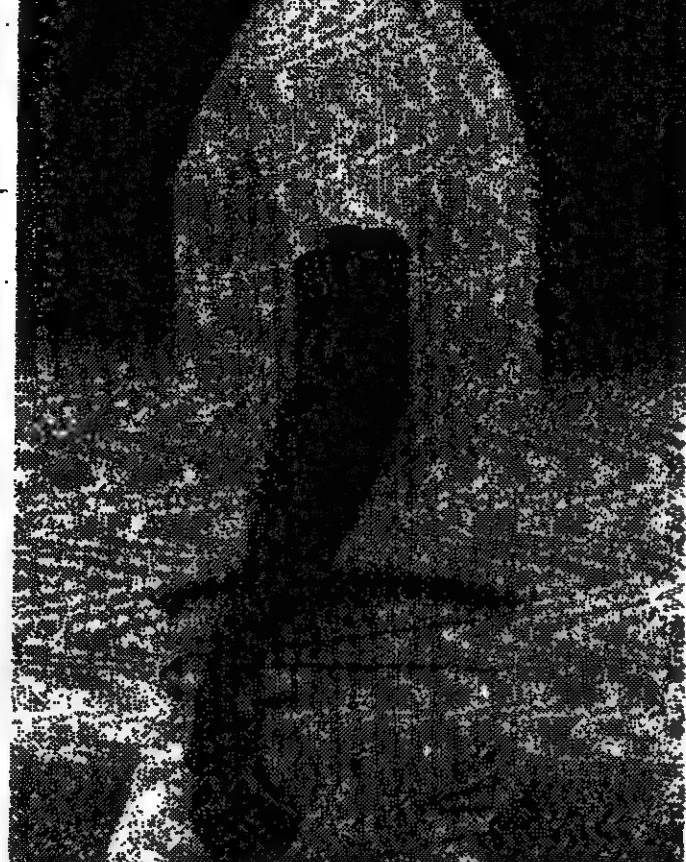
So the Australian attack, which looked so formidable in the first two Tests, then showed signs of vulnerability in the third, now begins to look paper-thin. The pace bowlers are Lawson (with 11 wickets from the three Tests), Lillee (seven) and Maguire, and they have a huge contract to try to wrest the initiative away from the Pakistani batsmen.

The turf which has provided wickets at the Melbourne ground for decades after decades has been completely replaced and 10 inches beneath the new surface is an electric blanket which has stimulated excellent early-season growth. So, for once, the forecast is for a good cricket wicket.

The Pakistanis, no doubt bolstered by their good performance in Adelaide, when Australia had to scramble on the last day to avoid defeat, go into this game with a warm glow of confidence that they can turn the tables and level the series. Their captain, Imran Khan, has been given the all-clear to play, but, strangely, his availability could almost prove an embarrassment when it comes to naming the 11 starters.

There is some doubt that Imran's leg injury has cleared up sufficiently for him to be counted as a bowler in a five-day game, that is where the complications lie. Logically he could replace, and bat usefully but failed twice with the bat in his first appearance last week-end and is looking somewhat like a square peg trying to fit into a round hole.

Whenever there is speculation about Pakistan's ability to win a test series, invariably it



Imran: back again, and looking for victory

centres on the wiles of the spinner. Qadir, however, having seen him fail the test when everything was going his way in Adelaide, one doubts whether he has the ability to provide a match-winning performance on Australian wickets.

If Pakistan are to win - and one senses they just might - it will be because they have begun to bat to potential and are at last bowling with a plan and a purpose. And as they prepare for this game they might well cast their minds back to the last

time the two teams met on the Melbourne ground. That was two years ago, when Pakistan batted first, declared at 500 for eight and then bowled Australia out twice to win by an innings and plenty.

Australia (from): K. J. Hughes (captain), K. C. Weseloh, V. Phillips, A. R. Border, G. S. Chappell, G. N. Yallop, R. W. Marsh, J. Maguire, B. J. van der Merwe, M. A. L. Hogg, G. T. Lawson. Pakistan (from): Imran Khan (captain), Mudassar Nazar, Mohsin Khan, Qasim Omar, Javed Miandad, Zahoor Abbas, Salim Malik, Rashid Khan, Abdul Qadir, Wasim Bari, Gharib Nawaz, Azam Khan.

W Indian innings back on even keel

Durban (Reuters) - A sparkling century by Alvin Kalicharman helped carry the unofficial West Indian team to comparative safety on the opening day of their four-day match against a South African XI yesterday.

Kalicharman and his captain, Lawrence Rowe, put on 154 for the fourth wicket in 201 minutes to take the score to 241 after their side had slumped to 47 for three. They progressed to 250 for four, when bad light ended play at 5.30 minutes early. Kalicharman finally fell for 103 shortly before the close, but Rowe remained unbeaten on 66.

Three leading stroke-players fell in the opening 20 overs. Bacchus was forced to retire after dislocating a finger when he was struck by a ball from Le Roux. After treatment Bacchus said he would bat again if required.

The touring team, who won the toss, were 97 for three at lunch. Trotman thrashed 21 in 27 balls, as the West Indians raced to 34 in six overs before they played an injudicious back-foot drive and edged Le Roux's wishy away swinger to second slip.

Bacchus had made 19 when he was forced to leave. Kalicharman and Lynch added 42 in even time before Lynch and King held out at mid-on against the off-spinner, Kourie, and King hooked the second ball. Backed from Rice straight into long leg's hands, Kalicharman moved to his 50 in 135 minutes, off 86 balls, but was never troubled as he moved to within six of his century of the tour.

At tea he was 88 not out, with Rowe, who began uncertainly, particularly against the leg spin of Hobson, reaching his 50 just before the break on an easy-paced pitch.

WEST INDIAN: First innings
S F A F Batsmen: 10
E N Trotman C Pickett B Rouse 21
M A L Hogg C Hobson B Kourie 26
A R Border C Hobson B Kourie 100
C J King C Hobson B Kourie 6
G T Lawson C Hobson B Kourie 3
D A Murray not out 3
Extras (bbs, LBW, NB): 28
Total (all out): 250

PAKISTAN: First innings
F C S Chappell, D R Parry, E A Moseley and T Clark 100, FALL OF WICKETS: 1-34, 2-48, 3-87, 4-241.
BOWLING: Le Roux 15-3-47-2, Jaffer 13-0-61-4, Kourie 24-25-1, Rice 11-28-21, Hobson 10-3-35-10.
PAKISTAN: (from) Imran Khan (captain), Mudassar Nazar, Mohsin Khan, Qasim Omar, Javed Miandad, Zahoor Abbas, Salim Malik, Rashid Khan, Abdul Qadir, Wasim Bari, Gharib Nawaz, Azam Khan.

Australia almost at breaking point as the Swedes relax

Melbourne (Reuters) - With the Davis Cup final between Australia and Sweden only two days away, neither country is certain of which players to select. Both Neale Fraser, the Australian captain for the past 13 years, and the Swedish coach Hans Olsson are expected to reveal their selections just before the draw at Kooyong on Christmas morning.

Fraser admitted after a day-long practice session that the position "has never been more open." He said he would have a deep think before making his decision. His main problem revolves around the left players in Australia's final victory over France by Fitzgerald, too, has caused concern since, chiefly because he has suffered from inconsistent form and tension this week.

Either one of them could be replaced by the lively Paul McNamee, who partners Mark Edmondson in the doubles. Both players showed sparkling singles form as they practised on the centre court. McNamee demonstrated that he deserves serious consideration for a singles spot while Edmondson, described by Fraser as looking as strong as a bull, played a perfect serve and volley tennis. He must also be in the running for a place in the singles.

McNamee had a sharp edge over Cash in the first session and the 18-year-old's temper flared briefly when he missed a return. He hurled his racket onto the court, smashing it in two.

Following the incident, Fraser sat down with Cash for a quiet, private talk about things in general.

In contrast to all the uneasiness in the home camp, the Swedes appeared utterly relaxed, although they, too, are uncertain about their line-up. There is a feeling among the Scandinavians despite non-committal comments from Olsson, that Joakim Nystrom may be given the second singles berth instead of Anders Jarryd.

This follows Nystrom's triumph, not only against Cash in the New South Wales Open semi-final last week, but his victory over the American Mike Bauer in the final. Earlier in the tournament Bauer had defeated Jarryd, who in spite of his excellent past Davis Cup record may only be used in the doubles. He and Hans Simonsson are regarded as one of the top three combinations in the world.

The pressure is obviously going to be on Mats Wilander. Sweden's number one since his remarkable Australian Open victory, he is expected to win both his singles.

Wilander appears to have sharpened his serve-and-volley game which is absolutely essential for grass court tennis. He has also surprised observers by showing a



Cash: feeling the tension

preference for a singly-handed backhand over his best shot which is his double-handed.

As if Fraser did not have enough problems with his players, the weather and the state of the centre court have also concerned him. With no heavy dew predicted, the forecast is in favour of the Swedes, who had no complaints after practising on the well-grassed surface. All the players were slipping but it was Fraser who said he felt the surface was "very grubby and dangerous". The Australian cracks are certainly sweating.

Sapsford last to go

Danny Sapsford, the last British representative in the boys' competitions in the Orange Bowl world junior championships in Miami, lost 6-3, 6-3 to Francisco Montana, of Florida, in the last 16 of the 14 and under age group.

In spite of his defeat, Sapsford, a remarkably entertaining little player, must have left the court very much happier than Montana's three previous victims, none of whom had contrived to take a game from the second set.

Sapsford's encouraging performance in reaching the last 16 was matched by Julie Donovan and Anne Sumpkins in the doubles, the 12 and under girls and the 14 and under sections. Miss Donovan, who won the Royal Palm Christmas Classic a few miles down the road the week before, bowed out to Pam Coffin. Miss Sumpkins was beaten by Cassi Coffin's older sister.

Now along with Teresa Catlin, who went out in the last 32 to the

Byes for top four in Masters

New York (Reuters) - Mary Wilander, Ivan Lendl, John McEnroe and Jimmy Connors, seeded one to four respectively, were given first round byes in yesterday's draw for the \$400,000 Masters tournament.

The New York tournament, for the top 12 points winners on the grand prix circuit, opens on January 10 with the sixth-seeded Jimmy Arias playing his fellow American, Johan Kriek, seeded 12, and Jose Higueras (7) of Spain, facing Jose Luis Clerk (9), of Argentina. Yannick Noah (5) of France, Andre Guisard (8), Benjamin Eliot Telescher (10), of the United States and Tomas Smid (11) of Czechoslovakia complete the entry.

Provided there are no surprises, the semi-final line-up will be Wilander v McEnroe and Lendl v Connors. The winner will receive \$100,000 and the runner-up \$60,000. Peter Fleming and John McEnroe, five times Masters doubles champions, are again seeded first, with Andre Jarryd and Hans Simonsson, of Sweden, second.

PROGRAMME: Jan 10: Arias v Kriek, Higueras v Clerk, Jan 11: Noah v Guisard, Lendl v Connors, McEnroe v Fleming, and 12 other matches. Jan 12: Lendl v Connors, McEnroe v Fleming, and 12 other matches. Jan 13: Lendl v Connors, McEnroe v Fleming, and 12 other matches. Jan 14: Lendl v Connors, McEnroe v Fleming, and 12 other matches.

Botham case unresolved

Donald Carr, the secretary of the test and County Cricket Board, will make one last attempt today to dissuade Ian Botham from playing football for Southampton United over Christmas. Carr will ask Botham to make the forthcoming England tour to New Zealand, Pakistan and Fiji - his first priority.

Carr said yesterday: I know that Ian has got himself fit and enjoys playing soccer for Southampton but his first priority must be to the test team. I spoke to the Southampton manager Allan Clarke today and he felt it was up to Ian to decide whether he played football or not.

Knott stays on

Alan Knott, the former England wicketkeeper, has signed a new one-year contract with Kent. Brian Luckhurst, Kent's cricket manager, said yesterday: "We reckon he is still the best wicketkeeper-batsman in the world."

Rain washes out first day of Test

Madras (Reuters) - Incessant rain has already washed out today's opening day in the sixth and final Test match between India and West Indies. The ground is waterlogged and further rain is forecast.

The match will not affect the outcome of the series in which West Indies have a winning 3-0 lead. The pitch has been protected by the best covering facilities at the Test venue in India and the ground has a reputation for draining quickly.

Elaborate arrangements have also been made to keep the outfield, but several hours of sunshine will be needed before the ground is in a playable condition.

HOCKEY

Cheshire to settle argument

By Sydney Friskin

An argument will be settled in the traditional Boxing Day match between Cheshire and Lancashire at Bowden, (2.15). Lancashire need to win but a draw will be enough to take Cheshire into the preliminary round of the county championship, where they will play Warwickshire at home on January 29.

Bowden is a lucky ground for Cheshire, who won twice there before the event was switched last year to Liverpool. In the previous Lancashire won 2-0 and went on to take the county title. Lancashire's performances this season have been disappointing but they are hoping to raise their game.

The bad news for Cheshire is that Buctan, their outside right, is out of action with a back injury and Robbie Smith, their centre forward, has tendon trouble. He is in the squad but is unlikely to play. In Buctan's absence Grimley, from the England under-21 squad, takes over as right wing and Greene will probably lead the back which is well equipped on the left with Renshaw and Brogdon controlling this flank.

Lancashire have lost Nicolson, who has opted out in favour of the indoor game, but with Egerton, Scottish international, Totter, Jolly Campbell and Hurry all available, their attack does not lack sharpness.

In more relaxed atmosphere down south another traditional match will take place on the same day at Chesham when the President's XI will play the club first XI (1.10). Tony Bennett, the club captain, having earlier relied, to his disadvantage, too many players who have seen their best days, has now recruited several players still on the active list.

Today's premier division match in the London League between Teddington and Slough has been postponed.

GYMNASTICS

Putting art at risk

By Peter Aykroyd

Gymnastics' trend of developing high-risk moves means that the artistic side of the sport is losing out. Eberhard Gienger, the former West German world horizontal bar champion, said at the national coaches' conference at Lilleshall national sports centre this week.

He contended that, while dangerous moves were spectacular, in the long run fewer gymnasts would be prepared to tackle them and so the sport's popularity would contract. Artistic expression was the basis of modern gymnastics and it should continue to be a major influence.

Britons sail in by 13 runs

From John Robertson, Sydney

It was a mixed day of work and relaxation here yesterday for the British team contesting the Southern Cross Cup. Lost second to the New Zealanders, the team were leaving no stone unturned in their preparations for the final event, The Sydney to Hobart race. This blue water classic, which starts on Boxing Day, counts for triple points and the British are hoping for a continuation of the variable conditions that have characterized the series so far.

Although the New Zealand yachts - Pacific Sundowner, in particular - are fast, British tactics are superior. Jones, said: "We are determined to have the best assessment of the race environment. We are striving for perfection and we'll do anything we can which might give us an extra few inches."

"We are monitoring wave heights and patterns and wind strengths now because this is the time of the year when the four waves will be back. Preliminary racing began in three years' time, with the first race in defence of the Cup on January 31, 1987.

Perth (AFP) - The Royal Perth Yacht Club, now holders of the America's Cup, have launched their campaign to defend the trophy after losing the 1987 trophy in the Indian Ocean, off Western Australia.

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RACKETS

Spurling's service is decisive

By William Stephenson

Adrian Spurling, of Tonbridge, yesterday joined the roll of public schools rackets singles champions on the H.K. Foster Cup which includes William Surtees and Howard Angus, former world champions, and the prime minister's son Mark Thatcher. Spurling defeated Alan Giddins, the Etonian second seed, 15-1, 15-4, 15-6 in the final at Queen's Club.

Following the extraordinary success of the Tonbridge second pair of older brothers Jonathan Spurling and Graham Cowdrey in reaching the final of the Noel Bruce Cup last month, the school's supporters witnessed at yesterday's final an exhibition of total dominance from probably the best player they have produced since J.R. Thompson.

Having been severely tested in the previous day's action by Rupert Owen-Brown, aged 16, his former partner in the schools doubles championship winning pair, Spurling yesterday seized the initiative through a series of sharp cut service from the left back and a particularly effective backhand service from the right.

Spurling has assessed the consistent accuracy of Giddins' service so when his opponent was in hand, the Tonbridgean attacked by volleying. In the rallies Spurling's correct single-handed technique, balance and footwork were superior and he ruthlessly outpaced and outmanoeuvred Giddins who hit the ball too high off the wall from where Spurling drove the ball to a length out of his reach.

Despite Giddins' gritty resistance in the third game, when Spurling made his mistakes, the Tonbridgean outclassed his opponent by keeping the pressure tight and never letting him gain control. This talented all-round tennis player goes up to Trinity Hall, Cambridge, next year.

Radley produced both finalists for the Remy Cup. Connolly Morris-Adams beat James Hunter 15-9, 15-2, 15-12 by placing the ball with studied care, yet he was confident enough to hit the ball inches above the board from the back of the court.

Yesterday's picture from the above competition was of Rupert Owen-Brown, and not as stated.

Life at the top of the slopes is hard for the unsung heroes

Uphill struggle for Britain's World Cup downhill skiers

Val Gardena, Italy (Reuters)

The downhill skiers of Switzerland and Austria are national heroes but their almost unknown challengers from Britain face an uphill struggle for honours.

While skiing is a way of life for many in the Alps, it is a minority sport for the British and, for those who compete internationally, an expensive and little-recognized passion which calls for extra motivation.

"There's intense competition to get into the Austrian and Swiss teams and their skiers have outside pressure to succeed," Britain's brightest hope Martin Bell, aged 19, said. "A British skier faces little pressure, so you need extra personal motivation". Bell said, after finishing fourteenth in a World Cup downhill here, his best result to date.

This resort in German-speaking northern Italy was the scene of Britain's finest skiing hour of recent years when Konrad Bartselski came second in a World Cup downhill two seasons ago.

But that unexpected British achievement was dismissed by many who saw Bartselski's surname and assumed the British-born sportsman was a Pole skiing for Britain. Four months travelling round the mountains of Europe to race in the World Cup is an expensive business for Bell, his brother Graham, aged 17, and Freddie Burton, the most experienced member of the British team.

Equipment is no problem as manufacturers either give or loan the dozen skis, various helmets, boots, suits, goggles and gloves needed; a sponsor's minibus provides transport.

Costs are partly met by grants and other sponsors but, as for many non-professional sports in Britain, all expenses are rarely covered. Parents have to dig deep into their pockets to keep their sons as full-time skiers either training or competing abroad for up to eight months of the year.

"It's a double burden for our parents, who aren't particularly well off," Martin Bell said. "If you get into the top 100, you might make a little money but

CONDITIONS AT EUROPEAN SKIING CENTRES

Italy: 10 Good 4-5, 20 Poor 2-3, 30 Very Poor 1-2, 40 Good 4-5, 50 Poor 2-3, 60 Very Poor 1-2, 70 Good 4-5, 80 Poor 2-3, 90 Very Poor 1-2, 100 Good 4-5, 110 Poor 2-3, 120 Very Poor 1-2, 130 Good 4-5, 140 Poor 2-3, 150 Very Poor 1-2, 160 Good 4-5, 170 Poor 2-3, 180 Very Poor 1-2, 190 Good 4-5, 200 Poor 2-3, 210 Very Poor 1-2, 220 Good 4-5, 230 Poor 2-3, 240 Very Poor 1-2, 250 Good 4-5, 260 Poor 2-3, 270 Very Poor 1-2, 280 Good 4-5, 290 Poor 2-3, 300 Very Poor 1-2, 310 Good 4-5, 320 Poor 2-3, 330 Very Poor 1-2, 340 Good 4-5, 350 Poor 2-3, 360 Very Poor 1-2, 370 Good 4-5, 380 Poor 2-3, 390 Very Poor 1-2, 400 Good 4-5, 410 Poor 2-3, 420 Very Poor 1-2, 430 Good 4-5, 440 Poor 2-3, 450 Very Poor 1-2, 460 Good 4-5, 470 Poor 2-3, 480 Very Poor 1-2, 490 Good 4-5, 500 Poor 2-3, 510 Very Poor 1-2, 520 Good 4-5, 530 Poor 2-3, 540 Very Poor 1-2, 550 Good 4-5, 560 Poor 2-3, 570 Very Poor 1-2, 580 Good 4-5, 590 Poor 2-3, 600 Very Poor 1-2, 610 Good 4-5, 620 Poor 2-3, 630 Very Poor 1-2, 640 Good 4-5, 650 Poor 2-3, 660 Very Poor 1-2, 670 Good 4-5, 680 Poor 2-3, 690 Very Poor 1-2, 700 Good 4-5, 710 Poor 2-3, 720 Very Poor 1-2, 730 Good 4-5, 740 Poor 2-3, 750 Very Poor 1-2, 760 Good 4-5, 770 Poor 2-3, 780 Very Poor 1-2, 790 Good 4-5, 800 Poor 2-3, 810 Very Poor 1-2, 820 Good 4-5, 830 Poor 2-3, 840 Very Poor 1-2, 850 Good 4-5, 860 Poor 2-3, 870 Very Poor 1-2, 880 Good 4-5, 890 Poor 2-3, 900 Very Poor 1-2, 910 Good 4-5, 920 Poor 2-3, 930 Very Poor 1-2, 940 Good 4-5, 950 Poor 2-3, 960 Very Poor 1-2, 970 Good 4-5, 980 Poor 2-3, 990 Very Poor 1-2, 1000 Good 4-5, 1010 Poor 2-3, 1020 Very Poor 1-2, 1030 Good 4-5, 1040 Poor 2-3, 1050 Very Poor 1-2, 1060 Good 4-5, 1070 Poor 2-3, 1080 Very Poor 1-2, 1090 Good 4-5, 1100 Poor 2-3, 1110 Very Poor 1-2, 1120 Good 4-5, 1130 Poor 2-3, 1140 Very Poor 1-2, 1150 Good 4-5, 1160 Poor 2-3, 1170 Very Poor 1-2, 1180 Good 4-5, 1190 Poor 2-3, 1200 Very Poor 1-2, 1210 Good 4-5, 1220 Poor 2-3, 1230 Very Poor 1-2, 1240 Good 4-5, 1250 Poor 2-3, 1260 Very Poor 1-2, 1270 Good 4-5, 1280 Poor 2-3, 1290 Very Poor 1-2, 1300 Good 4-5, 1310 Poor 2-3, 1320 Very Poor 1-2, 1330 Good 4-5, 1340 Poor 2-3, 1350 Very Poor 1-2, 1360 Good 4-5, 1370 Poor 2-3, 1380 Very Poor 1-2, 1390 Good 4-5, 1400 Poor 2-3, 1410 Very Poor 1-2, 1420 Good 4-5, 1430 Poor 2-3, 1440 Very Poor 1-2, 1450 Good 4-5, 1460 Poor 2-3, 1470 Very Poor 1-2, 1480 Good 4-5, 1490 Poor 2-3, 1500 Very Poor 1-2, 1510 Good 4-5, 1520 Poor 2-3, 1530 Very Poor 1-2, 1540 Good 4-5, 1550 Poor 2-3, 1560 Very Poor 1-2, 1570 Good 4-5, 1580 Poor 2-3, 1590 Very Poor 1-2, 1600 Good 4-5, 1610 Poor 2-3, 1620 Very Poor 1-2, 1630 Good 4-5, 1640 Poor 2-3, 1650 Very Poor 1-2, 1660 Good 4-5, 1670 Poor 2-3, 1680 Very Poor 1-2, 1690 Good 4-5, 1700 Poor 2-3, 1710 Very Poor 1-2, 1720 Good 4-5, 1730 Poor 2-3, 1740 Very Poor 1-2, 1750 Good 4-5, 1760 Poor 2-3, 1770 Very Poor 1-2, 1780 Good 4-5, 1790 Poor 2-3, 1800 Very Poor 1-2, 1810 Good 4-5, 1820 Poor 2-3, 1830 Very Poor 1-2, 1840 Good 4-5, 1850 Poor 2-3, 1860 Very Poor 1-2, 1870 Good 4-5, 1880 Poor 2-3, 1890 Very Poor 1-2, 1900 Good 4-5, 1910 Poor 2-3, 1920 Very Poor 1-2, 1930 Good 4-5, 1940 Poor 2-3, 1950 Very Poor 1-2, 1960 Good 4-5, 1970 Poor 2-3, 1980 Very Poor 1-2, 1990 Good 4-5, 2000 Poor 2-3, 2010 Very Poor 1-2, 2020 Good 4-5, 2030 Poor 2-3, 2040 Very Poor 1-2, 2050 Good 4-5, 2060 Poor 2-3, 2070 Very Poor 1-2, 2080 Good 4-5, 2090 Poor 2-3, 2100 Very Poor 1-2, 2110 Good 4-5, 2120 Poor 2-3, 2130 Very Poor 1-2, 2140 Good 4-5, 2150 Poor 2-3, 2160 Very Poor 1-2, 2170 Good 4-5, 2180 Poor 2-3, 2190 Very Poor 1-2, 2200 Good 4-5, 2210 Poor 2-3, 2220 Very Poor 1-2, 2230 Good 4-5, 2240 Poor 2-3, 2250 Very Poor 1-2, 2260 Good 4-5, 2270 Poor 2-3, 2280 Very Poor 1-2, 2290 Good 4-5, 2300 Poor 2-3, 2310 Very Poor 1-2, 2320 Good 4-5, 2330 Poor 2-3, 2340 Very Poor 1-2, 2350 Good 4-5, 2360 Poor 2-3, 2370 Very Poor 1-2, 2380 Good 4-5, 2390 Poor 2-3, 2400 Very Poor 1-2, 2410 Good 4-5, 2420 Poor 2-3, 2430 Very Poor 1-2, 2440 Good 4-5, 2450 Poor 2-3, 2460 Very Poor 1-2, 2470 Good 4-5, 2480 Poor 2-3, 2490 Very Poor 1-2, 2500 Good 4-5, 2510 Poor 2-3, 2520 Very Poor 1-2, 2530 Good 4-5, 2540 Poor 2-3, 2550 Very Poor 1-2, 2560 Good 4-5, 2570 Poor 2-3, 2580 Very Poor 1-2, 2590 Good 4-5, 2600 Poor 2-3, 2610 Very Poor 1-2, 2620 Good 4-5, 2630 Poor 2-3, 2640 Very Poor 1-2, 2650 Good 4-5, 2660 Poor 2-3, 2670 Very Poor

